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Holodomor Remembrance Flame coming to Canada

(UkrNews)—The International Remembrance Flame, designed to raise awareness of the Holodomor on the occasion of the 75th anniversary, will arrive in Canada from Australia on April 18.

Canada is the second of 33 countries the flame will travel through before ending its journey in Ukraine in November of this year.

The Flame is an official Ukrainian initiative and will travel from country to country escorted by Ukraine's ambassadors and consular representatives.

In Canada, the Flame will be delivered to Toronto by Ukraine's Ambassador to Australia, Valentyn Adomaytis, and the president of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations and chair of the International Coordinating Committee, Stefan Romaniw. It will be accepted by Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Dr. Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Oleh Shamshur, national president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Paul Grod, and president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Mykhajlo Sawkiw, The ceremony will take place immediately prior to the opening of the exhibit Holodomor: Genocide by Famine at Toronto's City Hall.

The Remembrance Flame will begin its journey across Canada in Toronto April 18.

The International Remembrance Flame,

It will end its journey in Ottawa on May 26 where Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko is expected to participate in the official ceremony.

Canadian events titled "Keep the Flame Alive" are designed to remember the victims of the Holodomor while ensuring that the story is transferred from generation to generation, from Holodomor survivors to the youth. Commemorative programs will emphasize the importance of sharing facts about the Holodomor with Canadians and continuing the awareness campaign going forward thus helping to ensure that similar atrocities are never repeated.

The Canadian journey of the Flame entitled Keep the Flame Alive is being organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine. Events will honour the victims of this horrific tragedy while ensuring that the story of the Holodomor is passed along from generation to generation.

Keep the Flame Alive will also launch a national campaign urging the Canadian government to recognize the Holodomor as an act of genocide.

The Flame will be escorted throughout Canada by Holodomor survivor and Toronto resident, 87-year-old Stefan Horlatsch.

The International Holodomor Remembrance Flame will also visit the following Canadian centres: Winnipeg (April 20), Yorkton (April 28), Regina (April 29), Saskatoon

Cont. on Page 3

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Canada

PLEASE SEND TO

The Entombment of Christ by Edmonton iconographer Marianna Savaryn.

Тимошенко не хоче, щоб у Росії було право вето

(Українська правда)—Прем'єр Юлія Тимошенко вважає, що Росія повинна звикнути до того, що Україна є незалежною державою.

Про це Тимошенко сказала у відповідях на питання після промови на сесії ПАРЄ, 16 квітня.

"Я хочу, щоб світ і Росія звикли до того, що Україна – незалежна сильна країна, яка буде відігравати і вже відіграє значиму геополітичну роль в регіоні", - сказала Тимошенко.

Вона заперечила право вето Росії на приєднання України до НАТО.

"Я можу абсолютно чітко сказати: жодна країна не може мати право вето на обрання Україною системи колективної безпеки. І хочу, щоб жодна країна таке право вето не застосовувала", сказала Тимошенко у Страсбурзі.

Тимошенко пояснила, що її ставлення до питання НАТО викладено в спільному листі разом з президентом і спікером до генсека Альянсу.

"Ми сподіваємося, що у грудні, як і було домовлено, буде ще раз розглянуто питання і висловлена позиція НАТО щодо звернення України про приєднання до Плану дій по членству в НАТО", сказала Тимошенко.

Водночас Тимошенко заявила, що в питанні вступу до НАТО "ми жодного кроку не зробимо без всеукраїнського референдуму".

"Справжні політики не буде ламати думку нації через коліно, відриваючись від думки людей. Політики в Україні з певних часів не будуть рухатися проти волі народу", заявила Тимошенко.

Вона додала, що Україна шукає формати колективної безпеки. "Як один з дуже перспективних варіантів ми розглядаємо співпрацю з системою європейської безпеки Євросоюзу", зазначила Тимошенко.

"Ми як європейська країна бачимо себе невід'ємною частиною побудови європейської системи колективної безпеки", - додала Тимошенко.

Юлія Тимошенко у Страсбурзі — 16 квітня 2008

Вона сказала, що зараз має відбутися інформаційна кампанія щодо НАТО.

"Хочу навести вопіющий приклад, коли на одному з ток-шоу в борця проти НАТО попросили розшифрувати НАТО, і він не зміг розшифрувати. Це говорить про те, наскільки в Україні потрібна публічна дискусія і гарна інформація", - сказала Тимошенко.

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Яценюк хоче, щоб Балога і Тимошенко договорилися на стороні

(Українська правда)—Голова Верховної Ради Арсеній Яценюк заявляє, що немає підстав для відставки уряду і обіцяє, що зробить все залежне від себе, щоб коаліція не розвалилася.

Про це він заявив на брифінгу 16 квітня.

"Нікому не вдасться зруйнувати роботу українського парламенту. Я розумію, що парламент став незручним, бо почав ефективно працювати. Парламент працюватиме за будь-яких обставин", - заявив голова ВР.

Яценюк також закликав інші гілки влади не втягувати парламент "в свої політичні розборки".

"Ми є єдиний законодавчий орган, в нас є своя позиція і ми будемо її відстоювати. Будь-які інші гілки влади, якщо вони мають розбіжності, мають вирішувати їх на фаховому рівні", - додав голова Верховної Ради.

Яценюк запевнив, що зробить усе, щоб "коаліція не розвалилася а уряд працював, бо на коаліції і уряді лежить вся повнота відповідальності за те, що відбувається в державі".

"І я не дам нікому уникнути цієї відповідальності", - запевнив він.

Таким чином, прошу зняти політичну температуру, всім повернутися в зал, домовлятися лише на основі консенсусу і не перешкоджати роботі єдиного законодавчого органу. Коаліція повинна працювати як єдиний орган відповідно до коаліційної угоди, уряд правомощний".

Він також наголосив, що ні юридичних, ні фактичних підстав говорити про звільнення уряду немає.

"Тому уряд має показувати ефективну роботу і прибрати імпульсивні реакції", - заявив Яценюк.

Ющенко категорично проти виборів мера Києва в два тури

(УНІАН)—Президент України Віктор Ющенко виступає категорично проти проведення дострокових виборів мера Києва у два тури.

Як передає кореспондент УНІАН, про це він сказав 14 квітня на прес-конференції у Варшаві.

Президент висловив переконання, що ця ідея не знайде підтримки і в українському парламенті, і в суспільстві. За його словами, країні потрібна стабільність, спокій, а не піар-ходи чи виборчі технології, тому він негативно ставиться до ідеї обрання мера столиці у два тури.

Президент підкреслив, що коли йде мова про обрання мера Києва у два тури, то потрібно пам'ятати, що інші мери обирались за іншим принципом – вибори проходила в один тур. На думку глави держави, до виборів міських голів необхідно підходити за одним принципом, зміна порядку проведення виборів буде нечесними і недемократичними кроком.

За словами Ющенка, вибори мера у два тури будуть ефективними лише при поверненні до системи врахування явки виборців.

«Формування певного порогу явки є новацією радянського суспільства, від якої Україна встигла відмовитись у 1994 році», - нагадав він.

Глава держави підкреслив, що це є дорогою у зворотному напрямку.

Ющенко також звернув увагу на те, що в Європі три чверті мерів обираються представницькими інституціями, тому пропозиція запровадження двох турів мера столиці відводить Україну від кращих європейських механізмів.

Він підкреслив, що ця пропозиція пов'язана з піартехнологіями, а не з бажанням зробити вибори демократичнішими і якіснішими.

Українським пластунам відкривається шлях до міжнародних скаутських зустрічей

Національна організація скаутів України (НОСУ) може стати членом Всесвітньої організації скаутського руху (ВОС) вже 1 липня 2008 року, повідомляє «Укрінформ».

НОСУ, до складу якої входять «Пласт», «Січ» та «Спок», стане повноправним членом ВОС за умови, якщо 5% її членів (із понад 160 країн-учасниць) не виступлять проти цього, пояснив голова виконавчого органу «Пласту» Констянтин Яковчук-Бесараб. На його думку, членство України у цій всесвітній організації дозволить українським скаутам репрезентувати нашу державу на джамборах (міжнародних скаутських зустрічах), налагоджуючи таким чином міжнародні зв'язки, спілкуватися з іноземними колегами та обмінюватися досвідом виховання молоді.

Як розповіла прес-секретар «Пласту» Ліна Остапчук, на XI з'їзді організації було визначено стратегію її розвитку на наступні два роки та присвоєно звання почесного пластуна голові АКБ «Трансбанку» Володимирові Костеріну. Такого звання раніше були удостоєні академік Ігор Юхновський, Президент України Віктор Ющенко, лідер гурту «Тартак» Сашко Положинський та ін. Присвоюється воно тим людям, вчинки та діяльність яких якнайбільше збігаються з ідеологією «Пласту», пояснила Л. Остапчук. Це сповідування патріотизму, християнських цінностей, любові до людей, природи та здорового способу життя.

До речі, 12 квітня в Україні відзначився День «Пласту», присвячений 96-й річниці заснування цієї скаутської організації. Як відомо, «Пласт» — неполітична позаконфесійна молодіжна організація, заснована у Львові 1911 року. Вона є відповідником світового скаутського руху, започаткованого в Англії у 1907 році. Свою назву українські скаути запозичили у спеціальних піхотних відділів українського козацького війська XVI століття — «пластунів». Наразі скаутська організація України об'єднує понад 10 тисяч членів різного віку.

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Тимошенко каже: "або по-моєму, або ніяк"

(УНІАН)—Прем'єр-міністр України Юлія Тимошенко заявляє, що зміни до Держбюджету-2008 будуть прийняті лише після прийняття Верховною Радою програми дій уряду.

Про це вона сказала в інтерв'ю телеканалу "Інтер" у неділю ввечері.

"Як тільки буде прийнято програму дій уряду, я миттєво внесу зміни до бюджету в Верховну Раду", - запевнила Тимошенко.

"Після програми дій уряду ми будемо міняти бюджет і проводити реформи в життя", - цитує прем'єр-міністра "Українська правда".

Тимошенко зауважила, що програма дій уряду два місяці в парламенті, "і парламент за два місяці навіть у порядок денний її не поставив".

Holodomor Remembrance Flame coming to Canada

Cont. from Page 1

(April 29), North Battleford (April 30), Vegreville (April 30), Red Deer (May 2), Calgary (May 2), Edmonton (May 3), Niagara (May 22), Toronto again (May 23) Hamilton (May 24), Montreal (May 24)

In Alberta, the first event will be a rally at the giant Pysanka in Vegreville the evening of Thursday, April 30 (for information contact: Natalia Toroshenko, (780) 632-7430).

The following day, Horlatsch will visit A. L. Horton School, then he is tentatively scheduled to go on to Jean Vanier School in Sherwood Park, followed by another school visit in Edmonton. He will be available for a media conference at the UCC-APC office at 2 pm ((for information contact: UCC-APC, (780) 414-1624, or Darka Tarnawsky (780) 490-8277).

He will then be driven to Red Deer where, the next morning (Friday, May 2) at 9:15am he will participate with the Flame in a ceremony at Notre Dame High School (for information contact: Oksana McIntyre, (403) 632-7430).

From Red Deer, Horlatsch and the Flame travel to the home of the Flames where they will visit MP and MLA offices, followed by an evening ceremony held at Calgary's monument to victims of the Holodomor (for information contact: Michael Ilnycky (403) 998-5109).

Right after his Calgary ceremony, Horlatsch will fly back to Canada's largest Ukrainian metropolitan centre, where the following morning he will participate at the Flame's last appearance of the first Canada leg. (It travels to the United States, then returns May 22.)

The Edmonton ceremony will be held at the Legislature grounds, Saturday, May 3, and begin at 9:30 am. Both Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach and Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel will participate.

Members of youth organizations, schools and dance ensembles will chalk out a large flame outline in the reflective pool area and will pass candles lit from the flame (for information contact: UCC-APC, (780) 414-1624).

Following its North American journey, the flame will travel to the Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Great Britain, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine.

The Holodomor was a deliberate act orchestrated by Stalin's communist regime to eliminate the Ukrainian nation and its aspirations for independence. As a result, the lives of 10 million Ukrainian men, women and children were eradicated.

About Stefan Horlatsch

(UCC National/UkrNews)—Stefan Horlatsch — a survivor of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide — will escort the International Holodomor Remembrance Flame across Canada marking the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

Here are some facts about Stefan Horlatsch

- Stefan Horlatsch is a retired teacher from Toronto.
- He was born in 1921 in the Zaporizhia region of eastern Ukraine. He grew up in a family of farmers and small landowners.
- During the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, Stefan Horlatsch's family had their land, livestock, and grain forcibly seized by Soviet authorities.
- 11 members of his family perished during the Famine-Genocide.
- Stefan Horlatsch has dedicated his life to promoting the cause of freedom.
- In 1991, to celebrate Ukraine's Declaration of Independence, Stefan Horlatsch led a "Walk for Freedom" across Ukraine, covering over 4,500 kilometres.
- As past president of Canadian Friends of Ukraine, Stefan Horlatsch has participated in the opening of numerous Canadian libraries in 14 cities across Ukraine.
- Stefan Horlatsch is the author of six books, and was recently inducted as an Honorary Member of the Ukrainian Writers Union.

Remembrance Flame sparks Russian outburst in Australia

(UkrNews)—The Holodomor Remembrance Flame began its international journey amid controversy as the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Australia issued a harsh statement accusing the Ukrainian community of rewriting history.

In a press released issued on April 3, the Embassy stated, "It is a historical fact that a large number of regions of the former USSR, including parts of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russia, were affected in 1932-33 by a catastrophic famine. One of its main reasons were economic reforms of the Stalinist government that were implemented in an unjustified anti-human way. The tragedy was aggravated by an unprecedented drought. Russia and its people together with Ukraine and other nations of the former Soviet Union were among the victims of that mass starvation. In fact, it was a humanitarian catastrophe with massive casualties among USSR citizens of different nationalities.

"That is why it is wrong to say that the famine was artificial and imposed specifically on Ukrainians and that it was a 'genocide of the Ukrainian nation'. Such a position is a gross contradiction to the internationally accepted definition and criteria of genocide. Supporting this position could lead to a formation of an explosive international precedent."

In an open letter to the Russian embassy, the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations has responded to the allegations that the community is acting divisively and misrepresenting history.

"In recent days the Russian Duma (Parliament) rejected a motion that the Holodomor was an Act of Genocide. The Russian Embassy in Australia has gone further by whitewashing Stalin's greatest crime, and launching an attack on Australians of Ukrainian heritage who are participating in a process of remembrance and commemoration. The Russian Embassy's release is implying that the act of commemorating this human tragedy through an International Torch Relay is being divisive.

"It would be unthinkable for the German Embassy in Australia to be acting as an apologist for Adolf Hitler's role in the Holocaust, or to launch a media attack on a commemoration of the Holocaust by Australians, claiming that it is divisive. Yet that is what the Russian Embassy's release has done in relation to the Holodomor.

"This is an extraordinary outburst by the Russian Embassy, as the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor has made no comment about Russians or the Russian Government (which the Russian Embassy represents). Blame for the Holodomor has instead been levelled at Joseph Stalin (who was a Georgian, not Russian) and the Communist regime under Stalin's control."

"Happy Easter to all members of our Ukrainian community."

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Alberta Provincial Council

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This individual reports directly to the Board of Directors of the UCC-APC.

Qualifications
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For more information contact: Daria 780-718-4739 or E-mail: uccab@telusplanet.net

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- Chapel in Building
- Lounge Areas for visiting
- Seniors Club
- Social Activities

* * *

- 1 бльок від Катедри Св. Івана
- 2 бльоки від комплексу крамниць
- Близько автобусової лінії
- Каплиця в будинку
- Приміщення для відвідин
- Клюб сеньйорів
- Суспільні програми

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Радіо Свобода

Члени НАТО за надання Україні ПДЧ

• **Сполучені Штати.** Активно лобіювали надання ПДЧ Україні та Грузії. Вважають, що Європа не робить того, що треба для забезпечення своєї безпеки супроти Росії.

• **Великобританія.** Близький союзник США. ЄС вважає, що спеціальні стосунки Великобританії зі США конкурують з британськими обов'язками перед ЄС.

• **Канада.** Близький союзник США. Підтримують розширення НАТО.

• **Данія.** Відданий член Альянсу. Часто гостро критикує Росію, але пацифістські тенденції в країні ставлять Данію на маргінесі дебатів щодо європейської безпеки.

• **Ісландія.** Близький союзник США.

• **Польща.** Найбільший уболівальник української євроатлантичної інтеграції. Відданий союзник США, однак ставить акценти на власні інтереси. Завзято торгувалася з Америкою щодо ПРО. В Росії бачить свою головну стратегічну загрозу, але й Німеччині не довіряє.

• **Чехія.** Віддана НАТО. Близький союзник США. Не довіряє Росії.

• **Словаччина.** Близький союзник США. Цінує близькі стосунки з Україною. Іноді піддається російському «пан-слав'янському » лобіюванню.

• **Словенія.** Близький союзник США. Не дуже турбується Росією.

• **Естонія, Латвія, Литва.** Близькі союзники США. Мають складні стосунки з Росією. Хочуть позбутися російського впливу над колишнім радянським простором.

• **Румунія.** Близький союзник США. Традиційно не довіряє Росії.

• **Болгарія.** Близький союзник США. Однак відчуває тягар вдячності Росії за допомогу у боротьбі проти Османської Туреччини в 19 столітті. Піддається російському лобіюванню у сфері енергетики та в питаннях пан-славізму.

• **Туреччина.** Союзник США, однак не погоджується з американською політикою щодо Іраку. Підтримує розширення НАТО, але вважає, що треба прислухатися до російських побоювань. Підтримувала ПДЧ для України та Грузії, але погодилась на консенсус.

Противники ПДЧ

• **Німеччина.** Найбільший європейський союзник США. Займає все сильніші позиції в питаннях європейської безпеки. Виходить з глибоких стратегічних міркувань того, що подальша ізоляція Росії ставить під загрозу безпеку всього континенту.

• **Франція.** Полишила військові структури НАТО 1966 року. Позиціонується глобально. Проявляє певний опортунізм, зокрема щодо Росії. Конкурує з Німеччиною щодо впливу в Європі. Подальше розширення НАТО чи ЄС на схід вважає анафемою.

• **Італія.** Традиційно крокує франко-німецькими слідами. Ці 3 країни є засновниками ЄС. Традиційно дружньо ставиться до Росії. Праві уряди бувають більш проамериканськими, ніж загальне населення.

• **Іспанія.** Дивись Італія.

• **Португалія.** Дивись Іспанія.

• **Греція.** Дуже негативне ставлення до США. Відчуває православне братерство з Росією.

• **Бельгія.** Переважно йде франко-німецькими слідами.

• **Люксембург.** Дивись Бельгія.

• **Нідерланди.** Традиційно близький союзник США. Поділяє німецькі погляди щодо Росії та подальшого розширення ЄС на схід.

• **Угорщина.** Єдина посткомуністична країна, яка не підтримала ПДЧ для України та Грузії. Ліві уряди, як теперішній, так і попередній, дружньо ставляться до Росії. Піддається російському економічному лобіюванню.

• **Норвегія.** Переважно поділяє погляди Великобританії та США. Не є членом ЄС.

Близько 140 тис. українців можуть отримати карту поляка

(Новинар/Українські Новини) —Польща заявляє, що близько 140 тис. громадян України мають польське походження й можуть подавати заявки на одержання "карти поляка".

Про це повідомив віце-директор Консульського департаменту й Полонії Міністерства закордонних справ Польщі Войчех Тичинський.

Він сказав, що Україна посідає третє місце серед країн за кількістю громадян польського походження.

За його даними, на першому місці Литва (400 тис.) і Білорусь (250 тис.).

Тичинський сказав, що Польща планує видати більше 1 млн. "карт поляка", від 100 до 200 тисяч із яких в 2008 році.

Він не сказав, скільки "карт поляка" може бути видано в Україні, у тому числі в 2008 році.

"У нас немає прогнозів по країнах. Усе буде залежати від зацікавленості в одержанні такої карти", - сказав віце-директор.

Він зазначив, що терміни видачі карти не визначені законом чи іншими положеннями Міністерства закордонних справ Польщі й будуть залежати від консула, який розглядає справу.

Він додав, що консулу необхідний час на перевірку документів, що може зайняти від декількох днів до декількох тижнів.

Крім того, за його словами, сама "карта поляка" буде виготовлятися в Польщі, і видачу карти з моменту подачі заяви доведеться чекати біля півтора місяця.

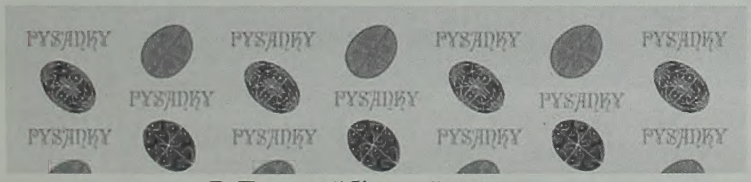
Тичинський сказав, що "карта поляка" не замінює візи в Польщу й для в'їзду в країну необхідно одержати візу, яка буде видаватися на загальних підставах.

Представник польського МЗС також зауважив, що з "картою поляка" буде простіше одержати національну візу для перебування в Польщі.

За його даними, власники карт будуть одержувати національну річну візу в Польщу безкоштовно, але за шенгенську їм доведеться платити.

Він додав, що Польща виділила на організацію видачі "карт поляка" в 2008 році 13,3 млн. злотих (6,05 млн. доларів).

Як повідомлялося, Польща 28 березня почала видачу "карт поляка" в Україні.



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Ахметов хоче, щоб Україна повернула йому мільярд за Дніпроенерго

(УНІАН)—Регіонал Ринат Ахметов вважає, що після рішення суду по Дніпроенерго про повернення акцій компанії державі, існує два виходи із ситуації.

Про це Ахметов сказав у 9 квітня на презентації концепції економічного розвитку Фонду ефективного управління, повідомляє *Українська правда*.

"Ми з повагою ставимось до рішення суду. Або ми йдемо в суд і оскаржуємо це рішення, або держава повертає нам гроші", - сказав Ахметов.

"Ми вклали в підприємство понад мільярд гривень. Відповідно, держава повинна нам повернути ці кошти", - сказав Ахметов.

На його думку, гроші має повертати саме держава, а не Дніпроенерго.

"Ми повертали гроші, щоб підприємство розрахувалося з кредиторами. Кредиторами була, у тому числі, держава. Відповідно вони і повинні повернути гроші. Інакше це шарлатанство: оздоровили підприємство, вилікували його, а в нас фактично його відібрали", - обурився Ахметов.

Yushchenko-Tymoshenko standoff getting ugly

(Ukrainian Journal)—The standoff between President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko turned ugly April 16 when her group accused the president of "shaming" Ukraine and being the main "threat" to its independence.

Our Ukraine, Yushchenko's group and Tymoshenko's coalition partner, responded with a harsh warning that the wording used was "unacceptable" for civilized political leaders.

The development is the latest in the rapidly worsening relations between Yushchenko and Tymoshenko over the pace of economic reforms and over Ukraine's future political system and constitution.

The rivalry between the two has been stemming from the understanding that both will be running for the presidency next year.

Yushchenko fears Tymoshenko's plans to run for the presidency has been postponing vital economic reforms, such as liberalization of domestic natural gas prices, which would badly hurt her support rating.

Instead, Tymoshenko has come up with a campaign to pay out billions of hryvnias to millions of people on failed Soviet-era bank deposits, the campaign that has boosted her rating.

But the bailout and the injection of billions of hryvnias have also spurred inflation to the level that has now been threatening economic stability, the presidential office charged.

Now, with the campaign apparently running out of cash, Tymoshenko has been seeking to sell more state assets to raise money to keep up high pace of social payments ahead of the presidential election.

But Yushchenko used his authority to suspend the privatization spree, which he argues has been lowering prices of assets and further fueling inflation.

This angered Tymoshenko as her failure to carry out to promised bailout may in fact hurt her support rating significantly.

"President Yushchenko, for the sake of maintaining illusive chances to win at the next election, has started the total elimination of all beginnings and initiatives of the democratic government," the Tymoshenko group said in a statement.

"It's a pity that the activity of the president has become one of the main threats to the independence of Ukraine, to its sovereignty," the group said.

"The president of Ukraine has been systemically shaming Ukraine making statements that humiliate the dignity of Ukraine in the world," it added.

Our Ukraine rushed to defend the president.

"The tone that the Tymoshenko Bloc used in its assessment of the activity of the President of Ukraine is unacceptable for civilized politicians whatsoever, not to mention the political group that is a coalition partner of the pro-presidential party," Our Ukraine said in the statement.

"We remind our partners that President Yushchenko has been elected the Head of State by the people," Our Ukraine said. "It was Yushchenko who brought unity to democratic groups, dismissed corrupt Parliament and made sure the early election takes place."

"We urge the Tymoshenko Bloc to restrain emotions and focus on effective work that the people have been waiting for," Our Ukraine said.

Turchynov rejects Baloha's suggestions

First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov said on April 15 that the cabinet is not planning to dismiss its members dealing with economic issues, as suggested by Presidential Secretarial head Viktor Baloha, Ukrainian news agencies reported.

"We dismiss this new portion of mud being poured from behind the Presidential Secretariat's walls," Turchynov said.

"The ministers who have failed to cope with negative trends and who have not come up with prompt market tools to respond to them should leave their offices. The cabinet should open its doors to those who act professionally rather than think about bolstering up their personal ratings or a mayoral office," the presidential press service quoted Baloha as saying earlier the same day.

Earlier this month, Turchynov asked for leave to run in the mayoral elections in Kyiv scheduled for May 25.

On April 16, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (BYuT) caucus in the Verkhovna Rada walked out of the session hall in protest against what it claimed was a smear campaign orchestrated by presidential aides and President Viktor Yushchenko against the cabinet of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

"Seeing how the president disgraced the government abroad within the past month, we deem it a sign of disregard not for the BYuT or Yulia Tymoshenko, but for Ukraine,"

BYuT lawmaker Mykola Tomenko said in parliament on April 16, urging Yushchenko to either dismiss the cabinet or make a public declaration of support for it.

Tymoshenko for parliamentary republic

(RFE/RL)—Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told journalists in Strasbourg on April 16 that she wants Ukraine to undergo a constitutional reform in order to become a parliamentary republic, Ukrainian media reported.

"We must untangle the functions of the executive powers and make Ukraine a traditional parliamentary republic, which is typical of European countries," Interfax-Ukraine quoted her as saying.

Tymoshenko also said that reforming the judiciary and instituting public control over the authorities must become the two other key aspects of the constitutional reform, which she said could be successfully completed by the end of 2008.

Speaking to a session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg the same day, Tymoshenko stressed that Ukraine is determined to conduct all the necessary reforms in order to gain membership of the European Union.

She also reiterated that Ukraine can join NATO only after a national referendum.

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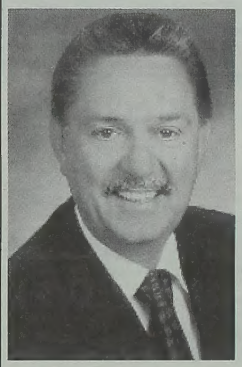

"Happy Easter to all members of our Ukrainian community."

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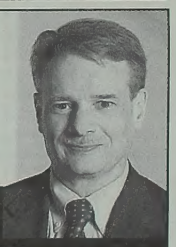

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Paul Grod,
President Ukrainian Canadian Congress

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Canada should declare Holodomor a genocide in Yushchenko's presence

Russia, which is quickly turning into a more sophisticated, 21st Century version of the typical 1930's fascist state, has been pulling a lot of temper tantrums lately.

Faced with the possibility of Ukraine and Georgia joining NATO, Russia's outgoing President and incoming neo-Soviet General Secretary of the neo-Soviet Unified Russia Party, Vladimir Putin, (and let's not forget that the General Secretary of the Communist Party wielded absolute dictatorial powers back in the USSR), went into hysterics.

During his April 6 meeting with President George W. Bush Putin warned that if Georgia and Ukraine moved toward NATO membership, Russia might respond by recognizing Abkhazia and South Ossetia's secession from Georgia and by instigating a partition of Ukraine. Putin told Bush that Ukraine was "not a real nation," that much of its territory had been "given away" by Russia, and that Ukraine would "cease to exist as a state" if it joined NATO. In that case, Putin hinted, Russia would encourage secession of the Crimea and eastern regions of Ukraine.

Nowhere has this been more apparent than in the vehement insistence by Russian authorities that the Holodomor was not a genocide. "There is no historical proof that the famine was organized along ethnic lines," said the Russian Duma in a recent resolution. Instead, victims included "different peoples and nationalities living largely in agricultural areas" of the Soviet Union.

Well, consider these facts:

- The Holodomor was geographically focused for political ends. It stopped precisely at the Ukrainian-Russian ethnographic border.
- The borders of Ukraine were strictly patrolled by the military to prevent starving Ukrainians from crossing into Russia in search of bread.
- At the height of the Holodomor Ukrainian villages were dying at the rate of 25,000 per day or 1,000 per hour or 17 per minute.
- Children comprised one-third of the Holodomor victims in Ukraine. Large numbers of children were orphaned and became homeless.
- The Ukrainian population was reduced by as much as 25 percent.

The Holodomor was genocide: it conforms to the definition of the crime according to the UN Convention on Genocide. The Communist regime targeted the Ukrainians, in the sense of a civic nation, in Soviet Ukraine, and as an ethnic group in Soviet Russia, especially in the predominantly Ukrainian Kuban region of the Northern Caucasus.

One recalls the eloquent words spoken by Rev. Prof. Dr. Borys Gudziak, Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv at the Holodomor commemoration in Edmonton on Nov. 24 of last year.

"The people of Germany, those who were responsible, but even those who were not, took stock of their tragic contribution to 20th century European history. They took stock, they looked truth in the eyes, and asked forgiveness from the people they enslaved, especially from the Jews, and they began building a new history," said Dr. Gudziak,

"Nobody has asked forgiveness for the Holodomor. No ideology has accepted responsibility. A policy that was planned in Russia, in Moscow, a policy that was meant to be confined to the borders of the Ukrainian republic remains an abstract fruit of evil minds for which nobody takes responsibility," he added.

It's about time the world recognized the Holodomor for the genocide it was and forced Russia to face up to its past crimes. The International Remembrance Flame which will be travelling through 33 countries to raise awareness of the Holodomor presents an opportunity for people in those countries to urge their own governments to recognize the Holodomor as the true genocide it was. Nowhere is this truer than in Canada. And no time would be better for the Government of Canada to officially recognize the Holodomor as an act of genocide than at the end of the journey in Ottawa, where Prime Minister Stephen Harper could make such a declaration in the presence of Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

The genocide loophole

Claims of the 'greater good' too often let mass murderers off the hook.

Commentary

By Jonah Goldberg,
Los Angeles Times, April 8, 2008

Last week, Russia's lower house of parliament passed a resolution insisting that Josef Stalin's man-made 1932-33 famine — called the Holodomor in Ukrainian — wasn't genocide. Virtually no one, including the Russians, disputes that the Soviet government was involved in the deliberate forced starving of millions of people. But the Russian resolution indignantly insists: "There is no historical proof that the famine was organized along ethnic lines." It notes that victims included "different peoples and nationalities living largely in agricultural areas" of the Soviet Union.

Translation: We didn't kill millions of farmers and their families because they were Ukrainians; we killed millions of Ukrainians because they were farmers.

And that's all it takes to be acquitted of genocide. The United Nations defines the crime as the "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." Intentionally left out of this definition are "modern" political labels for people: the poor, religious people, the middle class, etc. The oversight was deliberate. The word "genocide" was coined by a Polish Jew, Raphael Lemkin, who was responding to Winston Churchill's 1941 lament that "we are in the presence of a crime without a name." Lemkin, a champion of human rights who lost 49 relatives in the Holocaust, gave it a name a few years later. But to get the U.N. to recognize genocide as a specific crime, he made compromises. Under pressure from the Soviets, Lemkin supported excluding efforts to murder "political" groups from the U.N. resolution on genocide adopted in 1948. Under the more narrow definition that was approved, it's genocide to try to wipe out Roma (formerly known as Gypsies), but it's not necessarily genocide to liquidate, say, people without permanent addresses. You can't slaughter "Catholics," but you can wipe out "religious people" and dodge the genocide charge.

That type of absurdity is what Gerard Alexander, a political scientist at the University of Virginia, decries as "Enlightenment bias." Reviewing Samantha Power's moving 2003 book, "A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide" for the Hedgehog Review, Alexander observed that this bias leaves the greatest mass murderers of the 20th century — self-described Marxist-Leninists — somewhat off the hook. In Power's book, surely the most influential writing on genocide in a generation, she scolds the U.S. — often justly — for not doing more to stop systematized slaughter. But by focusing so narrowly on the U.N.-style definition of genocide, she implicitly upholds a moral hierarchy of evil, which in effect renders mass murder a second-tier crime if it is done in the name of social progress, modernization or other Enlightenment ideals. This can lead to a dangerous way of thinking in which people who are perceived to be standing in the way of progress — middle-class farmers opposed to collectivization, aristocrats, reactionaries — can be more forgivably slaughtered than ethnic groups because they're allegedly part of the problem, not the solution. After all, you've got to break some eggs to make an omelette. In general, the Soviets and the Red Chinese elude the genocide charge — and hence the status of ultimate villains — despite having murdered scores of millions of people in the 20th century, in large part because their victims stood in the way of progress. Kulaks, or independent farmers, opposed Stalin's plan for collectivization, and so they were murdered for that "greater good." Yet Mao Tse-tung and Stalin aren't widely regarded as being as evil as Adolf Hitler because they were "modernizers." Just look how the Russians have no problem copping to the charge of mass murder but recoil at the suggestion that it was racially motivated.

It's a wrongheaded distinction. Murder is murder, whether the motive stems from bigotry or the pursuit of allegedly enlightened social planning. And that's usually a false distinction anyway. Racial genocide is often rationalized as a form of progress by those responsible. Under the Holodomor, Ukrainian culture was systematically erased by the Russian Soviets, who saw it as inferior or expendable. No doubt the Sudanese janjaweed in Darfur and the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Tibet believe that they are "modernizers" too.

Or consider the ultimate racially motivated genocide, the Holocaust. Götz Aly and Susanne Heim demonstrate in their brilliant book, "Architects of Annihilation: Auschwitz and the Logic of Destruction," that the Final Solution, particularly in Lemkin's own Poland, was perceived by the social engineers and young economists overseeing it as a "modernizing project that would transform society." In Germany, the effort to crush Jewry was intertwined with the effort to nationalize the economy and eliminate small and independent businesses. For German social engineers, the Jews were convenient guinea pigs for their economic experiments. The first test cases, of course, were not the Jews but the mentally ill, who were classified as an economic liability in Germany's 1936 Four-Year Plan of economic modernization.

Of course, the climate of anti-Semitism made the Holocaust possible, but so did Enlightenment bias, which holds that almost anything can be justified in the name of progress. I doubt such distinctions would have been of much comfort to Lemkin's 49 relatives.

Kyiv, Tbilisi face more obstacles than simply Russian resistance

By Brian Whitmore

(RFE/RL)—Days before the NATO summit in Bucharest began, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili rolled out a new peace initiative for breakaway Abkhazia.

Just days after the summit concluded, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko announced a public-relations campaign aimed at selling a skeptical public on the benefits of joining the trans-Atlantic alliance.

These two presidential announcements represent clear attempts by Tbilisi and Kyiv to address key weak spots in their respective NATO bids.

At their summit in the Romanian capital on April 2-4, the trans-Atlantic bloc's 26 heads of state stopped short of granting Georgia and Ukraine Membership Action Plans (MAP) — a key step before joining. They postponed that decision until at least December, when NATO foreign ministers are due to meet.

"It is a political decision of the 26 whether or not to offer a Membership Action Plan. And they will take, and they are taking account of the broadest range of practical and political considerations," NATO spokesman James Appathurai told reporters during the Bucharest summit.

Among those considerations, of course, is a reluctance on the part of some members — most notably Germany and France — to antagonize Russia, which staunchly opposes Georgia and Ukraine's efforts to join the Western alliance.

But analysts say it isn't just Russian opposition that is keeping the two former Soviet republics' NATO dreams on hold. Although both countries have made impressive progress on military and political reform, both also still have significant issues that need to be resolved.

Analysts say Georgia also needs to complete critical political reforms and must make progress in resolving conflicts in the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which are strongly supported by Moscow.

For its part, Ukraine needs to overcome deep divisions in both the public and the political elite over joining NATO, and fully bring its armed forces under civilian control.

NATO officials say Ukraine has made great strides

Can the Ukrainian coalition hold together?

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation)—The ruling coalition of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Bloc (BYT) and President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine, People's Self-Defense (NUNS), is on the verge of breaking apart. Yushchenko's team not only criticizes Tymoshenko's economic policy but also publicly accuses her of fostering corruption. Tymoshenko, for her part, has been torpedoing Yushchenko's efforts to strengthen the presidential rule.

The situation is similar to the crisis of September 2005, when Yushchenko fired Tymoshenko from the post of prime minister, but there is one fundamental difference. In line with the constitutional amendments that came into force 2006, the president cannot dismiss the prime minister. This is within the jurisdiction of parliament, where Yushchenko is very far from commanding a majority.

The Tymoshenko government has increased social spending, and it plans to use privatization proceedings in order to keep Tymoshenko's election promise to repay savings in the defunct Soviet State Savings Bank through the Ukrainian state savings bank, Oshchadbank. Yushchenko's team maintains that this policy is populist and will unbalance the economy, but this policy increases Tymoshenko's popularity ahead of next year's presidential election race in which she is expected to challenge Yushchenko. Opinion polls conducted in March and April showed that 23 to 25 percent of Ukrainians are ready to vote for Tymoshenko in a presidential election, while support for Yushchenko is under 10%.

Yushchenko has urged Tymoshenko to amend the 2008 state budget as it was based on the expectation that inflation would be around 10 percent annually, but it reached 9.7% just in period from January to March. Tymoshenko said that she saw no point in amending the budget for the time being. On March 19 the Tymoshenko cabinet ruled to privatize four regional power generating companies. Yushchenko's secretariat warned that the decision could lead to the bankruptcy of the state-run Energy Company of Ukraine which manages the four companies. Tymoshenko ignored the warning, and Yushchenko issued a decree on April 11 canceling the privatization decision, saying that it "threatened the state's economic security."

Yushchenko accused Tymoshenko on March 28 of failing to settle the debt for Russian gas. He estimated the debt to Gazprom at $2 billion, and warned Tymoshenko of an imminent "gas war." Tymoshenko calmly replied that the debt was lower, at some $900 million, and she pledged to continue talks with Russia.

Yushchenko and Tymoshenko also disagreed over the early mayoral election in Kyiv. Yushchenko was against the election, but in March parliament backed Tymoshenko, scheduling the election for the end of May. Yushchenko suggested fielding a single candidate from the coalition, but Tymoshenko refused, unilaterally nominating her right-hand man, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov.

Yushchenko's team moved to strong statements in April, essentially burning their bridges. On April 10 Yushchenko's office head Viktor Baloha accused Tymoshenko of "creating a large-scale land trade scam" by setting up a single body to conduct land auctions across Ukraine. Baloha alleged that Tymoshenko wanted to install a friend of Bohdan Hubsky, "BYT's notorious landowner," at the helm of the body. He suggested that Tymoshenko "simply wants to head this mafia." Tymoshenko rejected the accusations, saying that the body was needed in order to ensure transparency in land auctions.

Yushchenko accused Tymoshenko on April 3 of betraying the coalition by hiring people who had served the old regime. He named Viktor Medvedchuk, who managed the office of Yushchenko's predecessor Leonid Kuchma, and Oleksandr Zadorozhny, who was Kuchma's representative in parliament. Zadorozhny advises Tymoshenko on constitutional matters, while Medvedchuk, Yushchenko's secretariat claimed, drafts a new constitution for her.

Yushchenko suspects that Tymoshenko joined forces with the team of Medvedchuk and the opposition Party of Regions (PRU) in order to block his plan to reverse the 2004-2006 constitutional reform. Yushchenko wants to restore strong presidential powers. Tymoshenko, however, has signaled that her party is in favor of a parliamentary form of government. The PRU and the BYT have agreed to set up a commission in parliament in order to draft constitutional amendments.

On April 14 United Center (YeTs), a small party linked to Baloha, issued a statement accusing the BYT of conspiring with the PRU to provoke an early parliamentary election. Yushchenko's legal advisor, Ihor Pukshyn, accused BYT on the same day of political corruption. He quoted unnamed BYT deputies as alleging that positions on the BYT list for the 2007 early parliament election were sold "for millions of dollars."

From April 12 to 14 the teams of Yushchenko and Tymoshenko exchanged strong statements, accusing each other of conspiring to break up the coalition. On April 14 the leading members of the two parties gathered for an urgent meeting to find ways to save the coalition. NUNS representatives insisted that the BYT should stop its joint work with the PRU on a constitutional commission. BYT insisted that Yushchenko should fire Baloha. BYT backed down on April 15, saying that it was suspending the plan to set up the constitutional commission. Baloha on April 15 urged dismissal of the ministers of finance and economy. He blamed them for high inflation. Both represent BYT in the Cabinet.

Kyiv, Tbilisi face more obstacles than simply Russian resistance

in bringing its military in line with the alliance's standards. Concerns remain, however, regarding the country's Interior Ministry troops, which are highly politicized and slow to reform.

"These is a problem with civilian control over the armed forces," says Eugeniusz Smolar of the Warsaw-based Center for International Relations explains. "In Ukraine there is a so-called Interior Army, which is unacceptable from the point of view of NATO standards. It is subjugated to the minister of the interior. This is a problem. This is a sort of political army, which we can't have. So they have a job to do."

Yushchenko has tried, thus far unsuccessfully, to reform the Interior Ministry troops. On April 8, for example, parliament rejected a bill that would have turned the Interior Ministry troops into a Ukrainian National Guard directly subordinate to the president.

The Ukrainian president is also trying to convince a skeptical public that joining NATO is a good idea. According to recent polls, just one in four Ukrainians supports joining the military alliance, and the political elite remains deeply divided as well.

Yushchenko's pro-Moscow political opponent Viktor Yanukovych and his Party of Regions staunchly oppose joining NATO. And even Yushchenko's Orange Revolution ally, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, while generally supportive, has been reluctant to embrace the goal as enthusiastically as the president would like.

The issue promises to be hotly contested in Ukraine's 2009 presidential election. Yanukovych is widely expected to challenge Yushchenko in that race and Tymoshenko is also believed to be considering a run.

Yushchenko has announced that Ukraine would hold a referendum on NATO membership in two years' time.

While Georgia and Ukraine are hoping they will finally get their MAPs in December, most analysts say the eight months between now and then is insufficient to satisfactorily address the issues on the table.

Smolar, for one, says the earliest realistic date will be NATO's 2009 summit in the eastern French city of Strasbourg and its German border town, Kehl.

"I expect this to happen at the 60th anniversary of NATO, if everything goes well. If Ukraine and Georgia do their homework," Smolar says.

RFE/RL's Georgian and Ukrainian services contributed to this report

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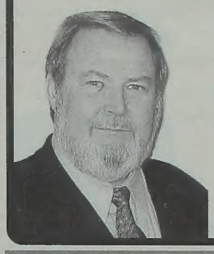

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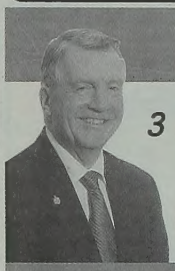

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Best wishes to the Ukrainian community for a meaningful Easter Celebration!

Janis Tarchuk, Minister
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More Canadians identify their Ukrainian roots in census

Ontario still leads among provinces, Edmonton among metropolitan areas, Winnipeg among municipalities

Report and Analysis
By Marco Levytsky

More Canadians are identifying their Ukrainian roots according to the ethnic origin statistics of the 2006 census released on April 2, 2008.

A total of 1,209,085 Canadians listed their ethnic origin as Ukrainian, of which 300,590 were single origin responses, while 908,495 were multiple origin.

This compares with 1,071,060 total in 2001 (326,200 single and 744,860 multiple).

The total increase was 12.9 percent — well above the overall growth in Canada of 5.4 per cent.

While single origin responses were down 8%, multiple-origin ones increased by 22%. The ratio of single to multiple-origin for Ukrainians went from 30:70 in 2001 to 25:75 in 2006.

Both the trend and ratios are consistent with those of other older immigrant groups like the English, Scottish, Irish, French and Germans.

The highest level of single origin responses is reflected in more recent immigrant groups like the Chinese, Filipino and East Indian. In the Italian group, whose largest immigration wave was in the 1950's and 1960's, single origin responses still outnumber multiple origin responses, but only slightly. The gap narrowed considerably between 2001 and 2006.

The increase, especially in multiple-origin responses can be attributed primarily to changes and clarifications made in the question for the 2006 census.

The 2006 Census ethnic origin question asked 'What were the ethnic or cultural origins of this person's ancestors?' In contrast, in 2001, 1996 and 1991, the question asked 'To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong?' The preamble to the question was also modified slightly for 2006 and a definition of 'ancestor' was placed directly on the questionnaire.

'An ancestor is usually more distant than a grandparent' and examples of ethnic origins were listed, as follows: 'For example, Canadian, English, French, Chinese, Italian, German, Scottish, East Indian, Irish, Cree, Milkman (Mimic), Métis, Inuit (Eskimo), Ukrainian, Dutch, Filipino, Polish, Portuguese, Jewish, Greek, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Salvadorian, Somali, etc'.

Previously, the definition of ancestor had been included only in the Census Guide.

The format of the 2006 Census ethnic origin question, an open-ended question with four write-in spaces, was the same as that used in the 2001 and 1996 Censuses.

As a result of these changes all ethnic origins related to the immigrant ancestry went up, while the general Canadian one dropped by 1,616,390 (13.8%) from 11,682,680 (6,748,135 single and 4,934,550 multiple) in 2001, to 10,066,290 (5,748,725 single and 4,317,570 multiple) in 2006.

In the Ukrainian case the massive media coverage given the Orange Revolution could also have played a role in increasing people's awareness of their ancestry.

Immigration from Ukraine does not appear to have had much significant affect on the Ukrainian-origin numbers, but may have played a significant role in the Russian-origin ones.

The total increase for Russian-origin responses was 162,640 (48%) from 337,960 in 2001 to 500,600 in 2006. This included a 36% increase in single-origin responses from 70,890 in 2001 to 98,245.

As this amounts to 27,355 in total numbers, while immigration from Russia during the same period was only 18,562, this could indicate that many of the 14,655 immigrants from Ukraine listed their ethnic origin as Russian.

In terms of percentage, the greatest increasefor provinces with over 1,000 Ukrainian-origin Canadians was in Quebec, which went up 32.9% (compared with a 4.3% increase for the province as a whole) from 24,030 in 2001 to 31,955 in 2006. Even though the bulk of this was attributed to multiple-origin responses, Quebec was also the only province where the number of single-origin responses increased — from 9,165 to 9,510.

Ontario still had the most Canadians of Ukrainian origin, though Alberta narrowed the gap to 4,155.

Ukrainian Canadian numbers were up by 45,430 (15.6%, compared with 6.6% for the province as a whole) to 336,355 (85,615 single-origin, 250,740 multiple).

Alberta had 332,180 (82,185 single-origin, 249,990 multiple) Ukrainian Canadians, up 46,455 (16.3%, compared with 10.6% for the province as a whole).

Next was British Columbia with 197,265 Ukrainian Canadians (37,450 single, 59,810 multiple). This was an increase of 18,380 or 10.2% compared with 5.3% for the province as a whole.

Manitoba was fourth with 167,175 (47,730 single, 119,440 multiple). This was an increase of 9,515 or 6.0% compared with 2.6% for the province as a whole.

Fifth was Saskatchewan with 129,265 (35,850 single 93,415 multiple). This was an increase of 6.1% in a province whose population actually declined by 1.1%. Besides Saskatchewan, Newfoundland was the only other province, which lost population.

(See also the separate table for provincial statistics)

Among urban conglomerations, the Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) led all others with 144,620 (41,665 single, 102,955 multiple) Ukrainian Canadians. It also had the greatest increase over 2001 — 18,900.

Second was the Toronto CMA with 122,510 Canadians of Ukrainian origin (40,115 single, 82,395 multiple. This was an increase of 18,020 over 2001.

The Winnipeg CMA, which was less than 2,000 behind Toronto in 2001, fell further behind in 2006 with 110,335 (30,090 single, 80,240 multiple) — an increase of 7,700.

The Vancouver CMA is fourth with 81,725 Canadians of Ukrainian origin (15,910 single and 65,815 multiple). This was an increase of 7,700 over 2001.

But Calgary CMA is catching up. It had an increase of 11,200 Ukrainian Canadians between 2001 and 2006 and now stands at 76,240 (14,040 single 62,205 multiple).

The only other CMA with over 30,000 Ukrainian Canadians was Saskatoon with 38,825 (10,380 single, 28,450 multiple).

A CMA or a census agglomeration (CA) is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a CMA, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. To form a CA, the urban core must have a population of at least 10,000.) A municipality is assigned to one of four categories depending on the percentage of its residents who commute to work in the urban core of any census metropolitan area or census agglomeration.

Canadians of Ukrainian Origin by Provinces and Territories

Prov or Terr.	2006	2001	Increase
1. Ontario	336,355	290,925	15.6%
2. Alberta	332,180	285,725	16.3%
3. British Columbia	197,265	178,885	10.2%
4. Manitoba	167,175	157,660	6.0%
5. Saskatchewan	129,265	121,740	6.1%
6. Quebec	31,955	24,030	32.9%
7. Nova Scotia	7,500	6,300	16%
8. New Brunswick	2,455	1,970	25%
9. Yukon	1,620	1,520	6.6%
10. NWT	1,445	1,270	13.8%
11. Nfld & Lab	945	585	61.5%
12. PEI	780	320	143.8%
13. Nunavut	155	135	14.8%

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More Canadians identify their Ukrainian roots

CMAs can be quite large. The Edmonton CMA also contains Parkland, Leduc, Strathcona, Sturgeon Counties and all the other municipalities within their borders. The Toronto CMA runs from Oakville in the west to Ajax in the east and from Lake Ontario in the south, to Lake Simcoe in the north.

But the percentage of the population that lives in the city core can vary greatly. Calgary's is highest with 92%, followed by Winnipeg with 91%. Edmonton's is 70%, Toronto's is 49% and the City of Vancouver (which is actually the smallest of these five municipalities) constitutes only 27% of its CMA.

Thus, when rated by individual municipalities, the picture changes considerably. Winnipeg leads with 96,255 Ukrainian Canadians (26,440 single, 69,815 multiple), while Edmonton is nipping at the heels with 95,525 (29,920 single, 65,605 multiple) and may have overtaken the top spot during the period since the census was conducted. Winnipeg's numbers increased by 5,270 between 2001 and 2006, while Edmonton's went up 9,890. Calgary is third with 68,545 (12,720 single, 55,825 multiple), Toronto fourth with 61,700 (23,335 single, 38,365, multiple) and Saskatoon fifth with 34,450 (9,470 single, 24,980 multiple. Vancouver drops to 10th place with 17,510

(See separate tables for full listing of all CMAs and CAs with over 5,000 Ukrainian origin Canadians and municipalities with over 4,000.)

As far as the single-to-multiple origin ratio concerned, the highest percentages of single-origin responses(40-51%) are found in Yorkton CA and the Ukrainian bloc-settlement rural census divisions near Yorkton and the Dauphin-Roblin area of Manitoba. These are also areas where Ukrainian Canadians constitute the largest ethnocultural group.

That would also appear to be the case in Alberta, although rural census divisions are much larger, and the five bloc-settlement counties (Athabasca, Thorhild, Minburn, Smoky Lake and Two Hills) are split between three different census divisions, which also include neighbouring countries of more dispersed or peripheral Ukrainian settlement.

The Statistics Canada website does not list municipalities with less than 5,000 total population, so individual statistics for those counties are not available.

But statistics are available for the Town of Vegreville, which has 5,305 residents. Ukrainian Canadians with 2,355 from the largest group, and of that number 51% are single-origin.

Among CMAs, the largest percentage of single-origin responses is found in Toronto (33%), which is the principle settlement target for the third and fourth wave of immigrants. Within the City itself, the single-response percentage is 38%.

Next are the Prairie CMAs within the pioneer settlement belt — Edmonton with 29%, Winnipeg and Saskatoon both with 27%.

The lowest percentages are found in those CMAs where Ukrainian Canadians migrated to from the earlier settlement areas — Ottawa and Vancouver 19%, Calgary 18%.

CMAs and CAs with over 5,000 Ukrainian Canadians

1. Edmonton, Alta	144,620
2. Toronto, Ont	122,510
3. Winnipeg, Man	110,335
4. Vancouver, BC	81,725
5. Calgary, Alta	76,240
6. Saskatoon, Sask	38,825
7. Hamilton, Ont	27,080
8. Montréal, Que	26,150
9. Regina, Sask	25,725
10. Ottawa, Ont – Gatineau, Que	21,520
11. St Catharines - Niagara, Ont	20,990
12. Thunder Bay, Ont	17,620
13. Victoria, BC	15,020
14. Kelowna, BC	13,425
15. Oshawa, Ont	12,555
16. London, Ont	10,765
17. Kitchener, Ont	10,425
18. Windsor, Ont	9,725
19. Abbotsford, BC	8,090
20. Greater Sudbury, Ont	7,585
21. Kamloops, BC	7,285
22. Lethbridge, Alta	7,120
23. Red Deer, Alta	7,010
24. Grande Prairie, Alta	6,795
25. Brandon, Man	6,750
26. Prince Albert, Sask	6,305
27. Yorkton, Sask	5,955
28. Barrie, Ont	5,920
29. Prince George, BC	5,685
30. Vernon, BC	5,355
31. Chilliwack, BC	5,295
32. Medicine Hat, Alta	5,075

Municipalities with over 2,500 Ukrainian Canadians

1. Winnipeg (Wpg CMA)	96,255
2. Edmonton (Edm CMA)	95,525
3. Calgary, Alta (Cal CMA)	68,545
4. Toronto, Ont (Tor CMA)	61,700
5. Saskatoon (Sas CMA)	34,450
6. Regina, Sask (Reg CMA)	23,440
7. Ottawa, Ont (O-G CMA)	19,305
8. Mississauga (Tor CMA)	18,960
9. Hamilton, Ont (Ham CMA)	18,730
10. Vancouver, BC (Van CMA)	17,510
11. Surrey, BC (Van CMA)	16,050
12. Thunder Bay (TB CMA)	15,660
13. Strathcona Cty (Edm CMA)	15,340
14. Montreal, Que (Mon CMA)	14,315
15. St Albert, Alta (Edm CMA)	9,430
16. Kelowna, BC (Kel CMA)	9,365
17. St Catherines (St-N CMA)	8,570
18. Grtr Sudbury(GSud CMA)	7,590
19. Red Deer, Alta (RD CA)	7,005
20. Burlington, Ont (Ham CMA)	6,990
21. Kamloops, BC (Kam CA)	6,575
22. Oakville, Ont (Tor CMA)	6,430
23. Windsor, Ont (Wind CMA)	6,270
24. Oshawa, Ont (Osh CMA)	6,235
25. Abbotsford, BC (Abb CMA)	5,945
26. Brandon, Man (Bran CA)	5,885
27. Lethbridge, Alta (Leth CA)	5,875
28. Burnaby, BC (Van CMA)	5,835
29. Yorkton, Sask (York CA)	5,170
30. Prince Albert, Sask (PA CA)	5,040
31. Vaughn, Ont (Tor CMA)	5,005
32. Coquitlam, BC (Van CMA)	4,990
33. Brampton, Ont (Tor CMA)	4,950
34. Pr George, BC (PG CMA)	4,925
35. Saanich, BC (Vic CMA)	4,865
36. Kitchener, Ont (Kit CMA)	4,825
37. Delta, BC (Van CMA)	4,770
38. Chilliwack (Chill CA)	4,725
39. Grande Prairie, Alta GP CA)	4,570
40. Richmond Hill, (Tor CMA)	4,475
41. Parkland Cty, (Edm CMA)	4,290
42. Medicine Hat, Alta (MH CA)	4,290
43. Richmond, BC (Van CMA)	4,255
44. Barrie, Ont (Barrie CMA)	4,160
45. Halifax RGM, NS (Hal CMA)	4,160
46. Brantford, Ont (Brant CMA)	3,675
47. Nanaimo, BC (Nan CA)	3,585
48. Vernon, BC (Ver CA)	3,585
49. Sault Ste Marie, Ont	3,525
50. Wood Buffalo, Alta (WB CA)	3,445
51. Sturgeon Cty, (Edm CMA)	3,355
52. St Andrew's (Wpg CMA)	3,305
53. Victoria, BC (Vic CMA)	3,285
54. Port Coquitlam (Van CMA)	3,165
55. Dauphin, Man	3,075
56. Welland, Ont (St-N CMA)	3,075
57. Niagara Falls (St-N CMA)	2,955
58. East St Paul (Wpg CMA)	2,890
59. Spruce Grove (Edm CMA)	2,820
60. New Westmin (Van CMA)	2,795
61. Fort Sask (Edm CMA)	2,770
62. Waterloo, Ont (Kit CMA)	2,595
63. Cambridge, Ont (Kit CMA)	2,535

Yushchenko to visit Canada at end of May

(UkrNews)—Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko is scheduled to visit Canada at the end of May, Ukrainian News has learned.

Although there wasn't any official announcement of his visit by the day this issue went to press, April 17, informed sources had confirmed that such a visit was being planned.

President Yushchenko is expected to arrive in Ottawa, May 25 and is to participate the following day in the Ottawa ceremony with the International Remembrance Flame, designed to raise awareness of the Holodomor on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

President Yushchenko is also expected to visit Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

This will be President Yushchenko's first visit to Canada and only the second by a President of Ukraine.

Former President Leonid Kuchma visited Canada in October 1994.

Ukraine's first President, Leonid Kravchuk visited Canada in the Fall of 1991 — before he was elected president on Dec. 1, 1991 — the same day Ukraine voted 91% for independence in a referendum.

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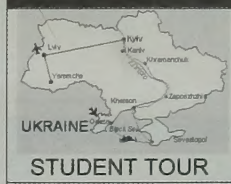

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Departures: Jun 04, Jul 16 and Sep 17, 2008

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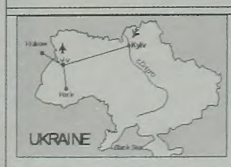
Departures: May 17, Jul 11, Aug 22 and Sep 11, 2008.



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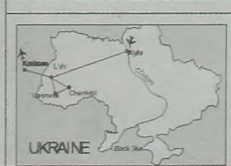
Only ONE departure: Aug 22, 2008



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Departures: Jun 25 and Aug 06, 2008

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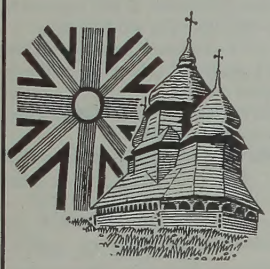


Радісних Свят Христового Воскресення!

Українському народові в Діяспорі та Україні, українським Церквам, церковним, громадським і політичним організаціям та нашому членству і прихильникам бажають

***Організації Українського Державницького Фронту** при Домі Української Молоді в Едмонтоні*

На Львівщині встановлять пам'ятник Дивізії Галичина

(Новинар/Західна інформаційна корпорація)—Депутати райради міста Броди виступили з ініціативою про створення пам'ятника Дивізії СС Галичина під Бродами на горі Жбир, де дивізія була розбита радянськими військами.

Бродівська районна рада прийняла звернення до Львівської облради, Львівської ОДА, підприємств, організацій, громадян України з ініціативою відновити пам'ятний знак полеглим у 1944 році українцям дивізії СС Галичина.

"Українці! У 1991 році з ініціативи Студентського Братства на пам'ять про полеглих у 1944 році українців під Бродами на горі Жбир у селі Ясенів Бродовського району було споруджено пам'ятний знак. Однак, через кілька тижнів він був по-варварськи знищений згідно наказу найвищого військового командування Радянського Союзу. Пізніше затяжна економічна криза не дозволила відновити монумент – на його місці було насипано лише символічну могилу і встановлено хрест.

Ми, депутати Бродівської районної ради, закликаємо усіх, кому є небайдужа пам'ять про тисячі полеглих патріотів України, долучитися до цієї ініціативи.

Переконані, що за наших спільних зусиль пам'ятний знак невдовзі знову гордо височітиме над міжнародною автотрасою Київ-Чоп як символ героїчного пориву Нескореної Нації".

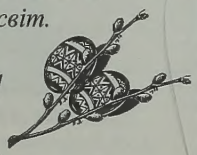
Дивізія Галичина (Перша Українська дивізія Української Національної Армії) - українська військова частина, яка в 1944-45 воювала на боці Німеччини. Формування дивізії розпочалося в квітні 1943 під керівництвом Військової Управи. Дивізія створювалась за зразком німецьких піхотних дивізій. Командиром дивізії був призначений ген.Фрайтаг. Воєнний вишкіл бійці дивізії проходили у Нойгамері, Німеччина. Перед відправкою на радянсько-німецький фронт дивізія нараховувала 16 тис. осіб.

17-22 липня 1944 під час боїв під Бродами дивізія була оточена і розбита. Окремим частинам дивізії вдалося прорвати оточення і відступити на Захід. Деякі відділи увійшли до складу Української Повстанської Армії.

Христос Воскрес!

Хай лине ввись передзвін Великодний,
І кличе молитва душу в політ.
Хай зійдуть на Землю щедроти Господні,
І крила розгорне оновлений світ.

Воістину Воскрес!



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Пам'ятний знак УПА харківські депутати визнали незаконним

Юлія Журавльова, *Радіо Свобода*

Харківська міськрада визнала незаконним пам'ятник воякам УПА. Його встановлення 16 років тому в Молодіжному парку депутати назвали «самовільним».

Аргументи депутатів: на камінь немає документів про землевідведення, він не входить до державного реєстру пам'ятників, тому і не може ним вважатись. Рішення своїх попередників від 92-го року, коли мером Харкова був ще Євген Кушнарьов, нинішній депутатський корпус міськради вирішив скасувати. Міський голова Михайло Добкін заявив, що це не означає, що пам'ятний знак зноситимуть, просто попередню ухвалу міськради про надання дозволу на його встановлення мають привести у відповідність до законодавства.

«Я не думаю, що сьогодні, або завтра, або в найближчі дні вийде техніка цей пам'ятник зносити. Ми знайшли певні порушення у рішенні від 92-го року і привели у відповідність до чинного законодавства. Я не збираюсь давати команду комусь виходити і зносити пам'ятний знак. Є харків'яни, і хай вони вирішують, чи буде він там стояти», – зазначив Михайло Добкін.

Внести пам'ятний знак УПА до держреєстру обласна адміністрація вирішила ще восени минулого року. Документи до відповідного міністерства надіслали, але остаточного рішення досі немає, кажуть в управлінні культури та туризму.

Докласти зусиль, аби нарешті юридично врегулювати це питання, пообіцяли в Спілці Української Молоді. А у разі, якщо буде вирішено знести камінь УПА, організація готова до будь-яких акцій протесту, наголосив представник Спілки Роман Черемський.

«Без рішення обласної ради і відповідних установ, які займаються пам'ятками історії та культури, не може міська рада приймати рішення про знесення. Безперечно ми будемо в першу чергу врегульовувати на юридичному рівні це питання. Але готові навіть фізично», – сказав Роман Черемський.

Рішення міськради про визнання пам'ятного знаку УПА незаконним не означає дозволу на його знесення – наголошують депутати. Але це дає привід будь-яким громадським організаціям у суді домагатися демонтажу, додають експерти. Серед найбільших противників УПА в Харкові і сам Михайло Добкін. 16 квітня на сесії він заявив: замість існуючого каменя в пам'ять воякам УПА, він накаже встановити інший – жертвам УПА.

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Регіонали звинуватили БЮТ у підпалі ринку Барабашово

(Новинар/Українські Новини)—Партія регіонів вважає пожежу на харківському ринку Барабашово провокацією БЮТ, яка була організована для того, щоб зірвати роботу Ради.

Про це сказала журналістам член фракції Партії регіонів Інна Богословська, 17 квітня.

"Учорашній підпал використовується, щоб зірвати роботу Верховної Ради", - сказала Богословська.

Вона звинуватила БЮТ у порушенні регламенту для вирішення політичних питань.

"Сьогодні ви бачите, що БЮТ намагається з порушенням всіх правил і норм регламенту ставити політичні питання, які стали можливі завдяки цій провокації вчора в Харкові, для того, щоб зірвати слухання закону про Кабмін", - сказав депутат.

Як повідомлялося, 16 квітня на ринку Барабашово в Харкові виникла велика пожежа. Керівництво концерну АВЕК заявило, що вважає пожежу на ринку Барабашово спланованим терористичним актом.

Коаліція виступає за включення до порядку денного Ради в четвер проекту постанови про призначення позачергових виборів мера Харкова й Харківської міської ради.

Рада 17 квітня мала намір продовжити розглядати проект закону про Кабмін.

Партія регіонів заблокувала трибуну парламенту, протестуючи проти винесення на голосування питання про призначення перевиборів у Харкові. Яценюк оголосив перерву.

Президент звільнив сумського губернатора Качура

(Новинар)—Президент України Віктор Ющенко підписав указ про звільнення Павла Качура із посади голови Сумської обласної державної адміністрації, 11 квітня.

Тимчасово виконуючим обов'язки призначено Миколу Лаврика.

Тексти відповідних указів розміщено на офіційному сайті президента України. Указ про звільнення Качура не містить пояснень щодо причин звільнення.

Edmonton East MP's wife takes part in pysanka workshop

(Peter Goldring's Office)—Lorraine Goldring, wife of Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, took part in a pysanka (Ukrainian Easter Egg) workshop April 5 at the Embassy of Ukraine, an annual event that is part of the Embassy's Easter celebrations.

The workshop is held annually for spouses of High Commissioners, Ambassadors and diplomats. Goldring was especially invited by Maryna Hrymych, wife of the Ambassador of Ukraine, Dr. Ihor Ostash, and was the only spouse of a Member of Parliament in attendance.

"I was very honoured to have been invited to attend this special event," Goldring said. "It brought back memories of creating these traditional eggs with my mother until she passed, and of making pysanky with my own daughters, as well as with many school children during my years as a teacher. I've enjoyed this artwork throughout my adult life and I look forward to the joy of passing on this cultural tradition to my new granddaughter."

Left to Right: Donya Slobodian; Ambassador of Ukraine Ihor Ostash; Lorraine Goldring, wife of Edmonton East MP Peter Goldring; and Maryna Hrymych, wife of Ambassador Ostash.

The pysanka (Ukrainian Easter Egg) has evolved though centuries of religious and cultural development. Painting eggs pre-dates the arrival of Christianity in Ukraine (988 A.D.). Originally thought to symbolize nature's rebirth each Spring, the egg came to symbolize Christ's resurrection at Easter. It is a distinct and well developed and very intricate Ukrainian folk art involving layer upon layer of wax protecting writing on eggs using symbolic marks and specific colours. The painted eggs are recognized world wide as being symbols of Ukraine.

The workshop was conducted by Chrystia Hudchak and Miroslawa Bilaniuk, leaders of the Ukrainian cultural organization "Pokrova." In attendance was Donya Slobodian, the famous Ukrainian Canadian pysanka artist from Montreal.

Also shown were two exhibitions: "*A Hundred of Easter Eggs*" by Donya Slobodian and "*Paintings*" by famous Ukrainian-Canadian artist Chrystyna Granger.

Baloha blames Tymoshenko for spoiling unity

(RFE/RL)—Presidential Secretariat head Viktor Baloha said on April 10 that decisions on land sales by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's cabinet give evidence to closer cooperation between the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (BYuT) and the opposition Party of Regions as well as show that the BYuT is ruining the parliamentary coalition and coming into an open conflict with President Viktor Yushchenko, Interfax-Ukraine reported on April 10.

"The openly selfish and crudely pragmatic actions of the team of Yulia Tymoshenko are being masked by pleasant and enthusiastic statements about unity, democracy, and fighting corruption.

"However, in fact, political and business schemes designed to give a monopoly to the BYuT and its bosses in the political arena, in power and economics, are being created.

Shadow deals and secret agreements, which should ensure the authoritative and financial assistance to this political force, are being made and signed," the presidential press service quoted Baloha as saying.

"I value the unity of the democratic coalition too highly to let some bureaucrats and outsiders destroy this unity," Tymoshenko later said in response to Baloha's criticism.

The same day, the Cabinet of Ministers passed a new resolution regulating the procedure for holding auctions of land not intended for farming.

Earlier that week President Viktor Yushchenko suspended a government resolution of Feb. 27 on such auctions.

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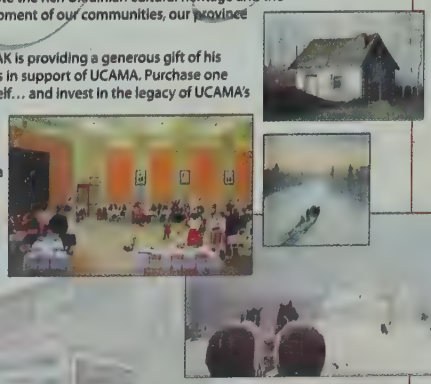

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У Києві відкритто виставку скульптора Лео Мола

(Прес-служба Посольства України в Канаді)—16 квітня ц.р. в Національному музеї Тараса Шевченка у Києві розпочала роботу виставка, присвячена творчості всесвітньо відомого скульптора українського походження з Канади Лео Мола (Леоніда Молодожанина).

У відкритті виставки взяли участь Міністр закордонних справ України Володимир Огризко, Посол Канади в Україні Абіна Данн, заступник Міністра культури і туризму України.

У жовтні 2007 р. Лео Мол та дружина мистця Марґарет передали в дар Україні для постійного зберігання в Національному музеї Тараса Шевченка частину творчого доробку майстра, створеного за останні 50 років. Це вже не перший подарунок мистця Національному музею Тараса Шевченка. У 1992 році скульптор подарував горельєф "Гайдамаки", скульптуру "Марія" та модель пам'ятника Тарасу Шевченкові, що знаходиться у Вашинґтоні.

На виставці, що відкрилася в Національному музеї Тараса Шевченка, представлені скульптурні роботи Лео Мола, його графічні твори, документи, фотографії пам'ятників, які знаходяться в багатьох країнах світу. На особливу увагу заслуговує шевченкіана – моделі пам'ятників у Вашинґтоні, Вінніпезі, Санкт-Петербурзі, скульптурна композиція "Гайдамаки"; копії пам'ятників св. Володимиру в Лондоні та єпископу Шептицькому у Філадельфії.

Виставка буде діяти до 14 травня 2008 року

Леонід Молодожанин (Лео Мол) народився в 1915 році в місті Полонному, на Хмельниччині, Україна. Студіював у Ленінґраді, 1939 р., пам'ятники Тарасові Шевченку у Вашинґтоні, США, 1964 р., в Буенос-Айресі, Арґентина, 1971 р.; в Прудентополісі, Бразилія 1990 р.; колишньому прем'єрові Канади Діфенбейкерові в Оттаві, 1986 р.; піонеру-пілоту Тому Ламбу на летовищі в Де Па, Манітоба, 1971 р.; Королеві Єлизаветі II у Вінніпезі, 1971 р.; папі Іоану Павлові II в місті Алтотінґ, Баварія, Німеччина, 1983 р.; Св. Володимиру: у Вінніпезі, 1984 р.; в Саскатуні, 1988 р.; у Лондоні, Англія, 1988 р.; у Римі, Ватикан, 1988 р.; в Торонто, 1989 р.; "Піонерська родина" в Селі спадщини української культури біля Едмонтону , 1981 р.; спортсмену-гокеїстові Максу Беллові для школи Сан Джон у Вінніпезі, 1990 р.; монаху Піо, бронза, 1984 р. в Франстанц, Австрія; К.С.Адамсу, бронза, 1967 р.; президенту Філіпсу Петролеюму, Бартелсвілл, Оклагома. Скульптор також виконав погруддя канадських мистців так званної "Групи семи": Олександра Джексона, Фреда Варлея, Олександра Кассона; погруддя колишнього Прем'єра-Міністра Канади Джона Діфенбейкера; Президента Америки Д. Айзенгауера; папи Павла VI, папи Іоана XXIII, папи Іоана Павла II; кардиналів: Тіссерана і Йосипа Сліпого; С. Гординського, П. Куча, Я. Гніздовського; Митрополитів: Іларіона і Германюка; О. Грищенка, М. Лисенка, О. Кошиця, А. Дарагана, А. Брекера, д-ра Торлаксона та інших.

Міністр закордонних справ України Володимир Огризко під час відкриття виставки скульптора Лео Мола в Національному музеї Тараса Шевченка в м. Києві.

Лео Мол запроектував і виконав понад 80 вітражів для церков у Канаді.

Твори скульптора знаходяться в постійних колекціях і галереях Гамільтона: "Макмайкл Колекції Канадського мистецтва", в Клайнбурзі, Онтаріо; в Національній портретній галереї у Вашинґтоні; у Ватиканському музеї в Римі, в галереї у Вінніпезі; в галереї в Торонто, в Українській Канадській мистецькій фундації в Торонто; в галереї "Осередок української культури" у Вінніпезі; в приватних збірках в Канаді, США, Англії, Німеччині, Голландії й Італії.

Понад 100 скульптурних творів Лео Мола (в бронзі) заходами управи міста розміщено в парку скульптур імені Лео Мола у Вінніпезі.

Мистець є членом і колишнім президентом Об'єднання мистців Манітоби та дійсним членом Королівської академії мистців Канади, Об'єднання Американських Мистців США, Товариства мистців в Мюнхені, та Об'єднання Українських мистців в діаспорі.

Лео Мол відзначений званням почесного доктора: Університету в Вінніпезі, Університету Манітоби, Університету Алберти, Едмонтон. Відзначений також Орденом Канади в 1989 році. У 2001 році Лео Мол був відзначений державною нагородою України - орденом "За заслуги".

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Поїзд «Львів – Сімферополь» забив жінку

(УНІАН)—У Криму літня жінка загинула під колесами поїзду № 85 сполученням «Львів – Сімферополь».

Як повідомили УНІАН у прес-службі Головного управління МНС України в Криму, 13 квітня нещасний випадок стався напередодні в Сімферопольському районі автономії.

«Літня жінка (особу якої не встановлено) потрапила під поїзд № 85 «Львів – Сімферополь» і загинула на місці події», - йдеться в повідомленні кримського Главку МНС.

Справою займається лінійний відділ міліції станції «Сімферополь» Придніпровської залізниці й транспортна прокуратура.

Participants at the opening ceremonies for the monument at Brygidky Prison in Lviv.

The Great Ukrainian Escape

Ukrainian activists who escaped Polish prison in Lviv, 1939, commemorated with memorial sculpture

By Oksana Bashuk Hepburn nd Taissa Bushnell

Prominent leaders of the Ukrainian community in Canada and the United States during the post-war era were honoured in Lviv, April 13. Three political prisoners of the Polish provisional government in Ukraine, Petro Bashuk, Yaroslav Haywas and Petro Kaniuka, escaped from the infamous Brigidky prison in Lviv in 1939. The three, members of the underground Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) had been incarcerated for nearly a year for pro-Ukrainian activities during the tumultuous era of Polish domination. Operating between two world wars, that government attempted to Polonize Ukraine by outlawing Ukrainian organizations and schools, and by suppressing other forms of national identity.

In protest, the late 1930s saw heated opposition and general uprisings. Numerous members of OUN were arrested. Several attempts were made by Ukrainian nationalists to escape Brygidky Prison, but none was successful. Finally, on June 16, 1939 after months of concerted planning, Bashuk, Haywas and Kaniuka engineered an escape.

The break out was a sensational act of defiance of Polish authority, an act of political will that fortified the revolutionary movement to secure an independent Ukraine. That spring, the prison administrations had stepped up its determination to break the prisoners who were fighting the regime with hunger strikes, and concerted acts of disobedience. When the trio escaped, news of their feat traveled quickly throughout Western Ukraine, boosting morale of hundreds of other political prisoners in Brygidky and reinvigorating support for the Ukrainian independence movement on the eve of World War II.

Freedom has No Price (*Volya Tsiny ne Maye)* is the memorial *bas relief in metal* dedicated to the three. Conceived by the sculptor M. Posikira and architect V. Kaminshchnyk it was installed in one of the ground floor windows in Brigidky, still a functioning prison. The memorial sculpture features three falcons, the symbol of Plast, tearing apart the bars of a prison cell to escape and continue the fight for freedom. The title comes from the book of the same name by Haywas, in which the escape is described. The memorial was commissioned by the Documentation Center for Research and Preservation of the Memory of the Ukrainian Nation, (*Centr Vyvchennja ta Zberezhennja Pamjati Ukrajins'koho Narodu*), founded by the national scouting organization of Ukraine, Plast. The execution of the design, its erection on site was handled by the joint Ukrainian-American company Renaissance-DR under its Director General, a member of Plast, Oleksander Krys'kiv. It was financed by the families of Haywas and Bashuk.

The unveiling ceremony took place in front of the Brigidky Prison and was followed by memorial service in the St. Yurij Cathedral.

Petro Bashuk (nom de guerre Chok, Zborovs'kyj), son of Ivan Bashuk and Anna Klymchak, was born on Nov. 26, 1911 in Pivschyna, now part of Sebechiv, Sokal region. He studies at the Redemptorist Fathers' gymnasium in Lviv and completed Ukrainian language studied in Peremyshl. He was a member of the then-illegal Plast organization, studied journalism in Warsaw, worked in the Desheva Knyzhka publishing house in Lviv, and the "Ridna Shkola" school administration in Sokal.

Joining OUN in the 1930s, he became the Sokal regional policy chief and member of its ruling council, AND one of the commanders of the fighting group Vovky. Bashuk was incarcerated in Bereza Kartuz'ka and other prisons of the Polish occupational regime. He was directed by V. Tymchij (Lopatynskyj) of the national OUN to organize partisans in the summer of 1939 and assume the command of the Polissja Lozove Kozatstvo, and for the OUN Belz region.

He was an active participant of the declaration of Ukraine's independence on June 30, 1941 and incarcerated in Auschwitz (1943-1944).

Bashuk's Canadian connection began in 1949 after immigrating to Winnipeg with his family to devote himself to the political and economic life of the Ukrainian diaspora.

His role as organizer for the League of Ukrainians in Canada (LUC) —formerly League for Ukraine's Liberation from 1953 to 1973, led to the establishment of some 40 branches throughout Canada, making it one of the largest and most influential Ukrainian organizations.

From about 1978 to 1990 he worked as the Administrator of *Postup/Progress*, the Ukrainian Catholic weekly of the Metropolitan See in Winnipeg under its Editor Rev. Semen Izyk, also an ex-political prisoner. With others, notably Dr. Mychailo Marunchak, they re-established the World League of Political Prisoners, which Bashuk had co-founded in Munich after the WWII. It comprised those incarcer-

Cont. on Page 15

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+ Давид Мотюк
Єпарх Едмонтонський

CHRIST IS RISEN!

On the feast of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Easter greetings to our hierarchy, clergy, religious, and faithful and our sincerest best wishes for a happy and holy Easter!

May the Risen Christ Bless You All!

+ David Motiuk
Eparch of the Edmonton Eparchy

Співпрацювали над виготовленням DVD – зліва направо Олена Прус, Лада Даревич, Христина Кудрик, Оля Пендзей-Тарапацька, Ірена Вжесневська, Оксана Бризгун-Соколик, Володимира Лучків, Христина Татарська.

Важливий проєкт – фільм про музей

Оксана Бризгун - Соколик

Пізною весною телефоном мене запросила Христина Татарська на засідання до музею Ліґи Українських Католицьких Жінок Канади Торонтонської Епархії (ЛУКЖК ТЕ) в Торонті. Членки Епархіяльної Управи ЛУКЖК плянують зробити відео про музей і просять порад, ідей…

Зібралася нас невелика група. Привітали нас Ольга Пензей - Тарапацька – референтка музею та Христина Татарська – референтка спеціяльних проєктів. Вона і вміло проводила засіданням. Вміло, кажу, тому, що поки засідання закінчилося, ми всі мали нові несподівані обов'язки… Так, ми всі були однозгідної думки, що таке відео потрібне, і то в двох мовах. Бо ж музеїві вже понад 40 років! Його святочне відкриття відбулося ще в листопаді 1966 року! Перший показ фільму мав би відбутися на XXVI З'їзді ЛУКЖК Торонтонської Епархії в жовтні того ж року… Час короткий, ідей багато, різні уяви конкретного продукту…

Комітет у складі Христина Татарська, Ольга Тарапацька, Ірена Вжесневська і екс–офіціо голова ЛУКЖК – ТЕ Оля Караїм взялися до інтензивної підготовки. Чим починати? Як кінчати? І тисячі питань не давали спокійно спати!

А ми, учасниці засідання, почали конкретну працю: Я приготовляла скрипт про музей та історію ЛУКЖК. Володимира Лучків про український народній одяг та опис строїв на манекінах. Ірена Вжесневська текст «Зв'язок поколінь». Скінчивши тексти ми їх скорочували, міняли, додавали… аж до остаточної форми. Мій текст та текст І. Вжесневської на англійську мову переклала Таня Тарапацька - Шафовал аж у далекому Мюнхені. Христина Кудрик переклала решта тексту.

В тім часі в музеї горіла підготовка до фільмування. Оля Тарапацька вложила серце, ентузіязм та багато часу приготовляючи експонати. Їй помагали Надя Стасина, Оля Яворська та Олена Прус. Вони витягали зі шуфляд вишивані скарби, вибирали, розкладали…

Засідань було небагато. Переважно все полагоджувалося, телефоном та електронною поштою. Керувала всім Христина Татарська, сердечно, дружньо, дуже чемно а при тім так, що годі було відмовитися!

Кінцева праця припала Олегові Водовозові. Кільометри фільму і тексти треба було змістити до 35 хвилин. Підібрати відповідну музику, та вложити все так, щоб було цікаво, і повчально і документально. І йому це все вдалося з допомогою дружини Галини. Хоч при кінці, вибираючи матеріяли, працювали вони з Х. Татарською часом і поночах в асистенції терпеливого Зенона Татарського.

Український текст читає на фільмі Люба Матвіяс. Англійський Лада Даревич – обидві професіоналісти в цім ділі.

І ось надходить XXVI З'їзд ЛУКЖК в Анкестері. 20–го жовтня, на другий день З'їзду, прем'єра фільму українською мовою. Гарно підібрана музика доповнювала зміст фільму. Повне признання та захоплення делеґаток, Владики, гостей. А в руках тримаємо маленьке DVD з естетично оформленою обгорткою роботи Христини Велигорської - Сеньків. DVD – це два ідентичні фільми – один в українській а другий в англійській мовах, кожний по 35 хвилин. Яка радість, яка гордість, що ми спричинилися до такого гарного та корисного діла!

В Торонті презентація DVD 9-го березня. Повна заля в КУМФ, радісний настрій, нетерплячка. В залі мала цікава виставка ручних робіт а стіни прикрашені великими полотнами, на яких дрібонькі зразки вишивок з цілої України. Це пам'ятка – праця Люби Луцької та її подарунок для СФУЖО. Виставку приготовила Христина Кудрик і Ольга Тарапацька. Нова голова ЛУКЖК ТЕ Марта Хомин відкриває свято. Програмою проводить Христина Татарська. Позитивна реакція після показу українського фільму і частинки англійського. Христина Татарська дістає заслужену велику китицю квітів. І несподіванка. Всіх, хто працював над фільмом викликають і вручають нам чудові рожі за співпрацю! А співпраця справді була знаменита.

Сердечна, щира, з дисципліною часу, який темпом тікав. Було приємно працювати в такім позитивно наставленім гурті людей, з таким вимогливим, але вирозумілим та культурним координатором проєкту. Всі дякували Христині Татарській за всі її зусилля, за провідництво.

Після фільму кава і солодке і нагода оглянути музей, що міститься на тім же поверсі. Там з малою брошуркою про музей і фільм нас вітала Оля Тарапацька. Малий цей музей, бо невелика заля. Понад 1000 прекрасних цінних експонатів, з них більшість у шуфлядах, мріють про велику залю, бо ж кожна цінна річ напевно хоче, щоб її побачили, подивляли.

Гарний проєкт скінчений. Залишився для історії документ і варта було б, щоб і інші наші музеї зробили подібні «прогульки в музей та історію» для знайомства з музеєм, для архівів, для майбутности.

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The Great Ukrainian Escape

Cont. fromPage 13

ated during the Polish, Nazi and Soviet occupations of Ukraine. One of the League's longstanding challenges was to place memorial plaque in Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps attesting to the fact that Ukrainian political prisoners had been incarcerated and died there.

Bashuk was a long time representative of LUC at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, an umbrella for member organizations, serving as Secretary General and receivied the Taras Shevchenko medal for meritorious service. Perhaps his greatest contribution during his tenure was to head the committee to erect the Taras Shevchenko monument on the grounds of the Manitoba legislature in 1961. He ensured that money left over from that initiative was converted to the Shevchenko Foundation, a granting body supporting Ukrainian arts and culture initiatives in Canada. It is now a $7 million operation.

Bashuk married a fellow member of the OUN and political prisoner of the Nazi occupation, author and educator Natalia Leontovych Bashuk. They had four daughters, Irena and Bohdana. Two others, Lada and Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, together with two out of his eight grandchildren, Libid Zyla and Dr. Roman Zyla, arrived from Canada and the United States for the Lviv commemoration.

Bashuk passed away in Winnipeg on May 29, 1995 without ever having returned to the country of his birth and great devotion.

Haywas started his activity as a member of the OUN youth group. He was arrested for the first time in September 1932 during the Polish "Pacification" program and convicted to a two-year prison term. His second conviction, in July 1934, again for a two-year term, was for the participation in the preparation of an attack on the Soviet consul in Lviv, an act of protest against the artificial Ukrainian famine of 1932-33.

In the beginning of 1935 after the arrests of OUN members for the assassination of Polish Minister Pieracki, and their Warsaw trial, the organizational network of the OUN and its leadership in the western Ukrainian lands were renewed, and Haywas became the leader of the reconnaissance division of the Regional Executive.

In 1940, under threat of arrest, he crossed the Polish-German border,

Petro Bashuk

Yaroslav Haywas

and, in Berlin, met with the head of the OUN Andriy Melnyk. That autumn Melnyk designated Haywas the leader of the OUN in the General Province. In September 1941 the Ukrainian National Council (UNC) was formed, and the *Ukrainian Word* (Ukrajinske Slovo) newspaper began publication. After the OUN went underground, and O. Olzhych, the Organization's leader for the central and eastern lands left Kyiv, Haywas was assigned his place.

In 1943 Haywas together with others formed the All-Ukrainian National Council, which united the UNC in Kyiv, the UNC in Lviv, and representatives of the Carpathian Ukrainian government.

The Gestapo organized a series of arrests which resulted in the imprisoning of Melnyk and other leaders in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Olzhych became the leader of the OUN. Haywas evaded arrest, but the Gestapo arrested his wife, Theodosia, instead, and promised to release her if he gave himself. He declined and became a member of the Ukrainian National Leadership (UNL) with Olzhych (before the latter's arrest).

Under the pressure of circumstances, the Germans released many nationalist leaders from their concentration camps. Melnyk, entrusted Haywas with the task of rebuilding the organizational network. The end of World War II saw Haywas in the American zone of occupation in Germany. He spent the next period of his life in a displaced persons camp in Berchtesgaden..

Haywas immigrated to the United States in 1950. His candidacy for head of the UNL was seriously considered after the death of Melnyk. Oley Shtul', however, became head, and Haywas his deputy.

In the US Haywas became actively involved in the work of the Organization for the State Renewal of Ukraine (ODVU). As representative of ODVU, he became a member of the leadership of the Ukrainian Congressional Committee of America in New York, and then its executive director.

Haywas was a prolific writer of essays and articles analyzing the Ukrainian problem and published two books of memoirs and political analyses. He was editor of the Ukrainian newspaper 'Novyj Shlyakh' in Toronto for several years.

Haywas returned to Ukraine after independence is declared and continued to publish essays and work until his death in 2004.

Kaniuka was born in Dobryachyn, Sokal region, Lviv oblast'. He was arrested on Sept. 30, 1938 by the Polish police in connection with the death of Jusef Dushka, and escaped from Brygidky on July 16, 1939. He was killed in 1939 and buried in the village of Dobryachyn, Lviv oblast.

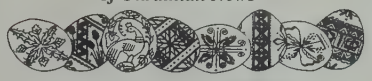
Yushchenko visits Libya

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko made a two-day state visit to Libya on April 7-8, Ukrainian media reported. During talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, Yushchenko reportedly discussed mutual cooperation prospects in the trade, economic, agricultural, transportation, and oil and gas sectors. Yushchenko told journalists in Tripoli on April 7 that Ukraine will supply three An-74 multipurpose transport aircraft to Libya under an agreement reached in 2003.

We extend greetings on the Easter Day to the all Ukrainian community especially for our readers!

CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Staff & Administration of Ukrainian News



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Відкриття виставки художників в Торонті

(Генеральне консульства України в Торонто)—6 квітня ц.р. Генеральний консул України в Торонто Олександр Данилейко та співробітники Генконсульства взяли участь в урочистому відкритті благодійної виставки картин українських художників та канадських художників українського походження Канади. Виставку було організовано при Соборі Успіня Пресвятої Богородиці в Торонто.

Метою проведення виставки було не тільки ознайомлення широкої громадськості м.Торонто з багатогранною творчістю українських митців, а й збір коштів на підтримку діяльності українських дошкільних закладів Торонто. Усі виручені кошти від продажу картин будуть переведені дитячому садочку Святої Софії в Місіссазі (околиця Торон-то).

У заході взяли участь члени Федерального Парламенту Канади В. Кхан та О. Алхабра, член Парламенту Онтаріо Ч. Соса, Міністр туризму Онтаріо П. Фонсека, Єпископ Торонто і Східної Канади Стефан Хміляр, керівники українських громадських організацій.

Перед присутніми виступив Генеральний консул України в Торонто О. Данилейко. У своєму виступі він зокрема відзначив, що українські дитячі заклади в Канаді виконують надзвичайно важливу задачу - виховання підростаючого покоління закордонних українців у дусі любові до історичної Батьківщини, відкривають перед ними багатство і красу української культури, традицій, велич історії свого народу, сприяють становленню їх як активних членів українського громадського життя. Подякував членам Уряду та Парламенту Канади і Онтаріо за підтримку української громади Канади, створення можливостей для збереження української ідентичності, розвитку національної культури.

В Івано-Франківську хочуть зберегти панно Опанаса Заливахи

Галина Добош, *Радіо Свобода*

Художник-монументаліст, лауреат національної премії імені Тараса Шевченка, дисидент і політв'язень Опанас Заливаха оформляв інтер'єри багатьох закладів громадського харчування в Івано-Франківську. Однією з найкращих таких робіт вважають мозаїчне панно в кафе «Білий камінь». Громадськість побоюється, чи передача приміщення банкові не призведе до його втрати, як це сталося з іншими такими роботами майстра. Серед пропонованих варіантів – узяти панно під скло, щоб воно було доступне для огляду.

Багато івано-франківців і не здогадувалися, що стіни популярної кав'ярні «Білий камінь» у центрі міста, на початку так званої «стометрівки», прикрашає мозаїчне панно, зроблене Опанасом Заливахою, поки не стало відомо, що замість кав'ярні тут відкриється офіс чергового банку. Що буде з роботою відомого художника, чи не «зашиють» його гіпсокартоном, як це сталося в колишньому квітковому магазині «Едельвейс», чи не буде воно знищене взагалі – такі питання першою в газеті «Галицький кореспондент» поставила місцева журналістка Наталка Голомідова.

«Коли я прийшла зі своїми запитаннями, зі своїм журналістським розслідуванням до чиновників і до наших творчих спілок, то виявилося, що вони про це знають, але в той же час ніяких ініціатив від них я не помітила. Погодилися, що так, треба захищати пам'ятку Опанаса Заливахи, але я була здивована, що я, журналіст, починаю це робити, а не вони. Ситуація виглядає двояко, бо якщо дивитися по паперах, то все виглядає нормально», – каже журналістка.

Юридично ці інтер'єри роботи відомого майстра не належать до категорії пам'яток чи цінностей. При продажу приміщень, де вони були, міськвиконком не прописував у договорах купівлі-продажу чи оренди умову збереження інтер'єру.

Опанас Заливаха повернувся до Івано-Франківська у 1970-му після 5-річного ув'язнення в мордовських таборах суворого режиму. На роботу в Художньому фонді, з огляду на свої переконання і відмову покаятися, розраховувати не міг.

Рятівною стала офіційна робота майстром облаштування інтер'єрів в «Облторгреклямі». Він оформляв кафе «Казка», «Медівня», «Кристал», «Вишиванка».

Деяких взагалі вже нема, в деяких інтер'єри змінені під смаки власників. Треба зберегти те, що ще є, каже голова обласної організації Національної спілки народних майстрів, заслужений художник України Василь Корпанюк.

«Можна інтер'єр якось оновити, освіжити, але все продумати, врахувати, характер інтер'єру зберегти, щоб це було постійно на виду, щоб громадськість мала можливість постійно бачити і виховуватися на тому», – каже художник.

Володимир, який роками ходив у цю кав'ярню, каже, що можна сперечатися про мистецьку вартість таких настінних робіт, але не забувати, ким вони зроблені.

«Є мистецькі речі, де митець вкладає душу, а є просто, коли заробляв на хліб. Панно неодмінно треба залишити», – вважає франківець Володимир. Представники творчих спілок Прикарпаття – художників, архітекторів, письменників звернулися до обласної і міської влади, власників приміщення «Білого каменя» з проханням зберегти мозаїчне панно Опанаса Заливахи. Міський голова Віктор Анушкевичус пообіцяв, що роботи видатного художника будуть збережені.

За його словами, вже надіслали звернення голові обласної ради про необхідність внести це панно в перелік нововиявлених пам'ятників історичної та культурної спадщини.

«Те ж саме будемо робити стосовно інших робіт цієї видатної людини. І це буде найкращим пошануванням його пам'яті», – запевняє франківський міський голова.

Такі ж запевнення дають власник і суборендар приміщення.

В Івано-Франківську одна з вулиць у центрі міста носитиме ім'я Опанаса Заливахи. Є також рішення спорудити пам'ятник художникові.

Про надання звання Герой України полковнику Євгену Коновальцю

(Світовий Конгрес Українців)—10 квітня 2008 року Світовий Конгрес Українців звернувся до Президента України, Віктора Ющенка, з проханням надати звання Герой України великому патріоту і борцю, талановитому військовому і громадському діячу, засновнику і першому голові Проводу Організації Українських Націоналістів полковнику Євгену Коновальцю.

У листі говориться:

"Як відомо, діяльність Євгена Коновальця нерозривно вплелась у контекст сучасної української історії і стала прикладом жертовности та відданого служіння своєму народу. Вона стала тим ланцюжком, який ідейно пов'язав визвольні змагання довкола Актів 22 січня і 1 листопада 1918-19 рр. з героїчною боротьбою УВО-ОУН-УПА, що пізніше вилилось у таборові страйки, рух шістдесятників та сімдесятників та призвело до проголошення 24 серпня 1991 р. незалежної Української держави.

І хоча звання Герой України надається громадянам України, ми просимо поряд з іншими, зробити виняток і для Євгена Коновальця, що стало б добрим підтвердженням оцінки його діяльности на державному рівні (Євген Коновалець народився і проживав більшу частину свого життя на території сьогоднішньої України). Зазвичай СКУ не висуває кандидатури на нагородження, але, зважаючи на винятковість ситуації, ми просимо Вашим указом як Президента України удостоїти славної пам'яти полковника Євгена Коновальця званням Герой України напередодні 70-ліття його героїчної смерті 23 травня 2008 року".

War of words escalates over NATO expansion

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine and Georgia reacted strongly over the weekend of April 12-13 to Russian threats of possible military action aimed at preventing the two former Soviet republics from joining NATO.

The war of words which began earlier that week with a statement by Russia's Foreign Minister was escalated by an April 11 statement by the chief of Russia's General Staff, army Gen. Yury Baluyevsky, in which the general pledged a wide range of actions in retaliation for possible moves by the two countries to join the Western military alliance.

In case of a possible joining of NATO by Ukraine and Georgia, "Russia will take action for protecting its interests close to its borders. These will be both military and other measures," he said.

Ukraine's foreign ministry demanded April 12y that the Russians "stop the practice of threats" against Kyiv.

"Statements by high-ranking Russian officials are... anti-Ukrainian... and are direct interference in Ukraine's internal affairs," said a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry statement carried by international wire services.

The reaction from Georgia was, if anything, even more pronounced.

Maka Gigauri, a spokeswoman for Georgia's Foreign Ministry, referred to the statements by the Russian general, as "a demonstration of open aggression against Georgia."

"This is why we, Ukraine and Georgia, want to become NATO members," she was quoted by news services as saying. "Such attempts by Russia to prevent Georgia and Ukraine from becoming NATO members will prompt an appropriate reaction from the leaders of NATO member states."

At a summit in Bucharest this month, NATO members balked at requests from Ukraine and Georgia to be granted a Membership Action Plan, which would have set them on the path to membership.

But, under US pressure, the NATO leaders agreed to reconsider the issue in December and gave a commitment that the two countries would be allowed to join eventually.

Asked to respond to the Russian general's comments, a NATO spokeswoman in Brussels said that any European democracy could apply to join the alliance. "This is nothing new and no third country has a right to veto," she said. "Membership of these two countries is not a matter of if but when."

Russian news agencies quoted Baluyevsky as saying that it was premature to talk about Ukraine and Georgia joining NATO, which the Russians view as a threat, any time soon. "This is not the end of the day," he said. "We will live and

Poland links EU-Russia talks to NATO deal

(RFE/RL)—Polish President Lech Kaczynski told Reuters in Warsaw on April 9 that he wants Poland to maintain its veto over EU talks with Russia regarding a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement unless major West European EU states agree to put Ukraine and Georgia on a clear path to NATO membership.

Poland originally imposed the veto in 2006 because of Russian restrictions on Polish agricultural exports, which Warsaw regarded as politically inspired.

Germany and France led some older NATO member states at the recent Bucharest summit in opposing moves by the United States and some newer member countries to grant Ukraine and Georgia each a Membership Action Plan (MAP), which is an important step toward NATO membership.

Kaczynski said on April 9 that only people who "are not sufficiently politically informed would think that what happened with the MAP had nothing to do with Russia's opposition."

Kaczynski argued that the issue of NATO membership for former Soviet republics is linked to the EU's strategic partnership with Russia because most EU member states also belong to NATO.

"I must tie these two issues together, even though I would prefer not to... We certainly should talk, we certainly should build an atmosphere in which mistrust is reduced. But whether the strategic [EU-Russia] talks can be unblocked in the near future is another matter. I would first like to know how the issue of MAP for Ukraine and Georgia is going to be resolved," he added.

Kaczynski said Poland will continue to press Ukraine's and Georgia's cases with Germany and France. French President

Nicolas Sarkozy will hold talks with him and Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Warsaw on April 23 in the run-up to the French EU presidency, which begins on July 1.

Kaczynski noted that the Bucharest summit gave Kyiv and Tbilisi a clear promise that they will eventually be admitted to NATO.

Alluding to Russia's opposition to NATO enlargement, Kaczynski argued that Russia has nothing to fear from countries where it already has huge business interests.

He noted that "Europe certainly wants to cooperate with Russia, but this cooperation must be symmetric. We cannot accept that Russia protects its energy market successfully, while the EU does not. Russia should not use its clout based on oil and gas" for political purposes.

Foreign policy has frequently been a matter of dispute between Kaczynski and Tusk, who maintains that it is his prerogative.

Newsru.com on April 10 quoted State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Konstantin Kosachyov as saying that other EU countries will not back Kaczynski's "senseless" proposal.

UCU proposes Cardinal Husar as "Honored Citizen of Lviv"

(RISU)—In an agreement with the city council of Lviv, the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) started an initiative to nominate the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), His Beatitude Lubomyr (Husar), for the rank "honored citizen of Lviv." On April 2, after the traditional general-university Liturgy, the community of UCU at the meeting unanimously supported a decision to give the candidature of the Great Chancellor of UCU for the rank of "honored citizen of Lviv."

Cardinal Husar was born in pre-war Lviv and granting him this honored title is an original manifestation of historical justice. As the vice-rector for university mission of UCU, Myroslav Marynovych, noted, it will be an honor for Lviv to have a man of such grandeur among its honored citizens. This is important also for Lviv, inasmuch as, after the transfer of the see of the head of the UGCC to Kyiv, some have talked about the marginalization of Lviv in the Church's understanding.

The deputy corps of the first democratic convocation introduced the awarding of the titles "honored citizen of Lviv" and "family of the year" in 1991. Today the following nominations are in effect: "honored citizen of the city of Lviv," "family of the year," and "Lviv citizen of the year." The most nominees are found in the nomination "honored citizen of the city of Lviv." During the time of existence of independent Ukraine, the rank "honored citizen of the city of Lviv" has been awarded to a few people simultaneously. For example, in 2001 the title "honored citizen of the city of Lviv" was given to Pope John Paul II during his visit to Lviv. The same year Viktor Yushchenko was awarded this rank. In 1998 the rank "honored citizen of the city of Lviv" was given to Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor of the USA, and to Robert Goetz, a philanthropist and doctor from Switzerland who gave medical help to Lviv hospitals.

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Russia prepares for lengthy battle over Ukraine

By RFE/RL analyst Victor Yasmann

(RFE/RL)—Russia's pro-Kremlin mass media lauded the recent NATO decision in Bucharest to delay issuing Membership Action Plans (MAPs) to Ukraine and Georgia, hailing it as a victory for departing President Vladimir Putin.

However, many serious pundits in Russia have been less smug. They appear to regard the objections formulated by Germany and France as temporary obstacles and think that NATO remains bent on including Kyiv and Tbilisi around its table. Ukraine is of particular concern, because, as the emerging neo-nationalist ideology in Russia argues, without that country, Moscow cannot restore its status as "the center of power in Eurasia."

"NATO membership for Ukraine means death for Russia," nationalist publisher Aleksandr Prokhanov has said.

At the same time, Russia's ruling elite is acutely aware of its significant geoeconomic interests in Ukraine, particularly since Ukraine and Belarus are the main conduits for Russian hydrocarbon exports to Western Europe.

Finally, Putin has a personal stake in the outcome. During Ukraine's 2004-05 Orange Revolution, Putin personally intervened on the side of then-Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, who led the "anti-Orange" camp. The failure of that heavy-handed intervention was presented around the world, including in Russia and Ukraine, as a major foreign-policy fiasco for Moscow. Media reports at the time indicated that the failed effort in Ukraine was coordinated by Putin's then chief of staff, Dmitry Medvedev.

Russian analysts realize that support in the United States for Ukraine's eventual NATO membership is not limited to the George W. Bush administration. It has bipartisan backing in both houses of the U.S. Congress, both of which this year passed resolutions of support. Russian media have noted that all the remaining U.S. presidential candidates — Senators John McCain (Republican, Arizona), Hillary Clinton (Democrat, New York), and Barak Obama (Democrat, Illinois) — support NATO membership for both Ukraine and Georgia. Obama was an initiator of the corresponding resolution in the Senate.

In addition, the concluding document of the NATO summit in Bucharest, which was endorsed by all NATO members of both "old" and "new" Europe, clearly states that Ukraine and Georgia should become members of the alliance.

Russian pundits have also noted with concern that, although a majority of Ukrainians still opposes NATO membership, that majority is slipping. The pro-Kremlin news agency RosBalt earlier this month published research that indicates the percentage of Ukrainians actively opposing membership has fallen from 70 percent to 35 percent in the last two years. Other research indicates that 60 percent of Ukrainians oppose joining NATO while 40 percent favor membership.

Moreover, the Ukrainian government is working to continue turning this tide. President Viktor Yushchenko told Germany's ZDF television recently that he thinks the percentages can be reversed within two years. Yushchenko's belief is well-founded, as the country's political elite — with the exception of left-leaning parties — is solidly pro-NATO and Ukrainian media — which, unlike Russia's, are genuinely independent — broadly support membership.

Observers in Moscow have also expressed concern that the traditionally pro-Russian elements in Ukraine have been antagonized by the recent gas wars and various other clumsy efforts initiated by Moscow. In October, for instance, the pro-Kremlin Eurasian Youth Movement (ESM) entered Ukraine and vandalized some state symbols at the summit of the country's highest peak.

The protest outraged the Ukrainian authorities and public opinion, especially after press reports suggested that the instigator of the action was International Eurasian Movement leader Aleksandr Dugin. The ESM is part of Dugin's umbrella organization. In the wake of the scandal, Putin fired Modest Kolerov, the head of the presidential-administration department in charge of ties with CIS countries who had enlisted Dugin as an adviser.

Pro-Kremlin propagandists also emphasize the idea of a "military threat" from the alliance, even though some of Russia's top defense officials are skeptical of such a threat. First Deputy Prime Minister and former Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, for instance, said in April 2007 that Russia faces no military danger on its Western borders, saying that the real potential danger lies in the Far East and the Pacific region.

Ukraine is of particular concern, because, as the emerging neo-nationalist ideology in Russia argues, without that country, Moscow cannot restore its status as "the center of power in Eurasia."

"It is true," Ivanov said, "that we have NATO [in the west], but we have acceptable relations with it and a system of treaties and mechanisms has been established." This assessment, made during a speech in Vladivostok, went little noticed by the central mass media. As a result, a significant segment of Russian public opinion is convinced the Western alliance presents a military threat to Russia.

Meanwhile, the war of words is continuing. CIS Institute Director Konstantin Zatulin debated Anatoliy Hrytsenko, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada National Security and Defense Committee, recently on NTV. Hrytsenko laid out a passionate defense of the pro-NATO position.

"The richest people in both Russia and Ukraine long ago made the decision in favor of NATO," Hrytsenko said. "Their children study in universities in NATO [countries]. They buy property and yachts in NATO. They send their wives to give birth in NATO countries. They buy soccer clubs in NATO countries. Do you think the citizens of Russia are stupid? If not, then you are. How long will you continue to inflict Soviet-propaganda stereotypes on them?"

Unable to respond logically, Zatulin simply accused Hrytsenko and Ukraine of "treason." In general, Russian media hit the theme of Ukraine's "treason" heavily in the days surrounding the Bucharest summit.

In refusing MAPs for Ukraine and Georgia, NATO explained that the step is unwarranted because of "unfavorable public opinion [in the two countries] and unresolved ethnic conflicts." Since Moscow feels it can do little to turn the current tide of public opinion in Ukraine, policy analysts are looking at the second issue. The Kremlin has successfully manipulated "unresolved ethnic conflicts" in Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Kosovo to advance its geopolitical interests.

In a March 31 article in "Izvestia," Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov, who is a leader of the pro-Kremlin Unified Russia party, urged Moscow not to extend its treaty of friendship, cooperation, and partnership with Ukraine. That document expires on April 1, 2009. The 1999 treaty establishes the border status of the Crimean Peninsula and the right of Russian Black Sea Fleet to use its base at Sevastopol. Luzhkov argued that withdrawing from the treaty would allow Russia to reopen its territorial claims on Crimea, which has an ethnic-Russian majority and was part of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic (RSFSR) during the Soviet period.

The day after Luzhkov's article appeared, some Duma deputies made similar arguments in hearings on the question of Ukraine's possible NATO membership.

On April 7, "Kommersant" reported that Putin had questioned Ukraine's right to exist during a closed-door Russia-NATO Council meeting in Bucharest. Citing an unidentified NATO source, the daily said Putin told his counterparts that in order to prevent Ukraine from joining the alliance, Russia was prepared to claim the eastern and southern parts of the country. "Ukraine will cease its existence as a state," Putin purportedly said.

Ukraine's reaction to the report was surprisingly muted. Verkhovna Rada speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk told journalists in Moscow that he does not consider such threats "realistic," adding that the idea of splitting Ukraine is "illusory." In fact, Yatsenyuk has good reason to be sanguine. The Ukrainian public and the political elites are united in opposing any division. Even the pro-Moscow Party of Regions and the pro-Russia oligarchs of eastern Ukraine have little taste for division. Perhaps more importantly, a split Ukraine would not satisfy Russia's economic interests, since even the rump western portion would be able to disrupt flows of Russian energy exports to Western Europe.

This does not mean that Russia will stop playing this card. Vladimir Batyuk, an expert with the Institute of the U.S.A. and Canada, has said the Kremlin's goal is to split the alliance as deeply as possible on the issue of further eastward expansion, not the absorption of Ukrainian territory. In fact, he added, the Kremlin does not want to see too great a weakening of the alliance, to say nothing of its disintegration: "If NATO disintegrates or is defeated in Afghanistan, then Russia will face a Taliban threat again, just as it did eight years

Russia: The new and improved single-party state

By Brian Whitmore

((RFE/RL)—In accepting an invitation to become the leader of Russia's ruling party, outgoing President Vladimir Putin has not only secured a comfortable job for himself after leaving the Kremlin. He's also set the stage for a potential overhaul of the country's political system.

Putin announced his decision to lead Unified Russia during a speech on the second and final day of the party's congress on April 15 in Moscow.

"Working efficiently together, the government and the parliamentary majority make it possible to successfully develop the economy, improve health care and education, raise incomes, and strengthen our country's defense," a forceful-sounding Putin said, to thunderous applause. "I accept, with gratitude, the proposal put forward by party members and its leadership."

Putin has already said he will serve as prime minister when he turns over the presidency to his handpicked successor Dmitry Medvedev next month.

But analysts say it is the Kremlin leader's decision to become the head of Unified Russia that could prove even more significant. The move gives Putin a power base that should enable him to remain Russia's de facto ruler — possibly indefinitely, if he so chooses. This is because Unified Russia is more than just a ruling party. It is the single reservoir of the country's political, business, and bureaucratic elite.

In an interview with RFE/RL, Olga Kryshtanovskaya, head of the Institute for Elite Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences, says that leading Unified Russia gives Putin control over most of the country's political establishment.

"He'll have the State Duma as a resource, since Unified Russia has a majority there," Kryshtanovskaya says. "He will have control over the Federation Council, where they also have a majority. He will have control over regional parliaments, because there they have a majority as well. These regional parliaments confirm the governors. His administrative resources will increase significantly."

Analysts say the emerging arrangement is beginning to resemble the Soviet system, in which actual power resided with the Communist Party, and high state posts — like the president, prime minister, or leader of parliament — were largely ceremonial. The general secretary of the Communist Party was the country's true ruler.

Kryshtanovskaya says the system has been "substantially modernized" to accommodate a market economy, and contains window dressing like carefully managed multicandidate and multiparty elections that give the appearance of plurality but ultimately keep power within the central party.

In essence, she says, Russia's evolving political system is taking nearly all its cues from the USSR. "This process can be called Sovietization in the most general sense," Kryshtanovskaya says. "Many mechanisms of the state machine are beginning to resemble Soviet ones. This includes the process of leadership recruitment, which will go through Unified Russia."

Putin's move also means that he will remain personally dominant in Russian politics even after Medvedev moves into the Kremlin.

Analysts have been divided over whether as prime minister Putin would be able to maintain control over Russia's political system and sprawling bureaucracy, given the enormous constitutional power Medvedev will enjoy as president. (Medvedev declined an invitation to join Unified Russia, saying such a move would be "premature.")

Lilia Shevtsova, co-chairwoman of the Russian domestic politics and political institutions project at the Moscow Carnegie Center, tells RFE/RL's Russian Service that Putin is now gaining political "weight and muscle" as he prepares for his post-Kremlin career.

"Imagine President Medvedev without a party, or as a rank and file member of the party, or even a member of its leadership," Shevtsova says. "But the leader of that party is Putin. Therefore in this tango for two, the disproportions will increase [in Putin's favor]. This will weaken the position not only of the president, but the presidency itself."

Shevtsova describes Unified Russia as being "like a glove on Putin's hand" throughout his presidency. It was formed in 2001 — largely as a vehicle to support Putin's policies — when the pro-Kremlin party Unity merged with Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov's Fatherland-All Russia.

There had been some speculation about whether Unified Russia's dominance would continue after his presidential term ended.

Stanislav Belkovsky, a political analyst who heads the Moscow-based Institute for National Strategy, tells RFE/RL's Russian Service that before Putin's ascent to the party leadership, top members of Unified Russia had been increasingly fearful of losing their privileges under the incoming regime.

"Unified Russia is not a party in the classical political understanding of that term. Unified Russia is a club of bureaucrats and businessmen who have one aim: access to the Kremlin trough," Belkovsky says. "Boris Gryzlov, the formal leader of Unified Russia, [deputy Kremlin chief of staff] Vladislav Surkov, and their comrades are very frightened that President Dmitry Medvedev will exclude them from the trough."

The new developments, of course, mean that that will most likely not happen. Shevtsova says having Putin at the helm gives the party "a second wind."

But in his acceptance speech, Putin indicated that his leadership comes with strings attached. The party, it seems, can expect changes in the near future — possibly in the form of a Soviet-style purge.

"The party, as I have already said many times, should be reformed," Putin said. "Essentially, this is exactly what we're witnessing now. It must be more open to discussion, taking into account the views of the voters. It must be rid of bureaucracy, cleared of random people pursuing solely their personal goals and benefits."

Ukraine's Iron Lady combines fierce political will with iconic style

By Maria Danilova, *The Associated Press*

On a typical day, she may lead a Cabinet meeting, visit coal miners or fly to Brussels for a summit.

But before she steps out of her home, she sculpts her rich blond hair into a peasant-style braid. Only then does she become the prime minister every Ukrainian instantly can identify.

To her adoring supporters, she's simply "Yulia," selfless fighter for democracy. The hairdo is more than a fashion statement; it evokes a beloved symbol of Ukrainian identity — the humble, honest peasant.

Her critics see her as a corrupt and power-hungry opportunist. She was accused of enriching herself in corrupt energy deals in the 1990s and was briefly jailed seven years ago on money-laundering charges. The charges were dropped.

Her tenacity leads some to call her the Iron Lady, and Tymoshenko herself looks to Margaret Thatcher as a role model. Nowadays, Europe is getting used to female leaders.

But none rules a country as divided as Ukraine, a former Soviet republic torn between its Europe-friendly west and pro-Russian east.

In that tug of alliances, 47-year-old Tymoshenko is with the pro-Europeans. She embraces democracy and Western ways with gusto, promising to turn Ukraine into a prosperous, law-abiding European nation.

"Ukrainian politicians must solve impossible problems if they want to see the country happy," she explained in a recent interview with a Ukrainian newspaper.

Tymoshenko became an internationally recognized political figure in 2004 after a flawed presidential election, when she rallied hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in Kiev's main square demanding that reformist Viktor Yushchenko be declared the winner over a pro-Russian rival.

Yushchenko won a court-ordered revote and appointed Tymoshenko as his prime minister in early 2005, but he fired her after only seven months in office in a bitter feud.

Tymoshenko didn't give up. Last December, she managed a remarkable political comeback, regaining the premiership when her party won the second-biggest share of seats in Parliament and reunited with Yushchenko's team in a coalition government.

But Tymoshenko is once again at odds with Yushchenko. She is attacking his latest gas deal with Russia, while he is accusing her of lying and scheming to increase her power. So their power-sharing deal is shaky.

Tymoshenko is confident that she will triumph. "We, women in politics, find it difficult," she said recently, "but we feel confident because our position is right."

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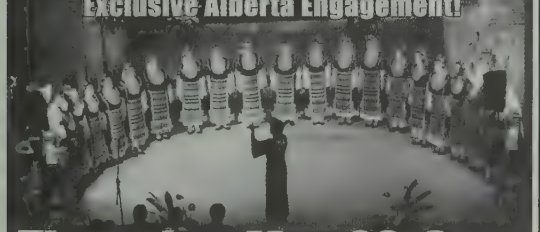

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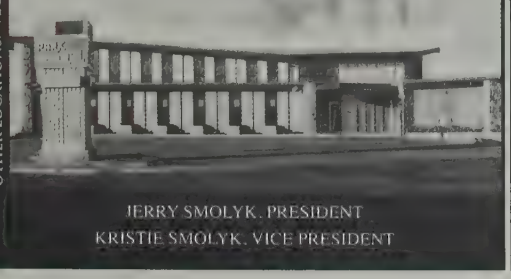

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Poland, Ukraine agree on Euro-Asia oil transport

Business

Poland and Ukraine on April 14 agreed on an ambitious oil transportation project in cooperation with a major US energy firm to connect Central Asian fields with European consumers, reports dpa.

Representatives for Sarmatia, a company jointly owned by the Ukrainian and Polish governments, and US-owned Granherne Ltd., a subsidiary of KBR Energy, signed contracts for the project in Warsaw.

Polish President Lech Kaczyski and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko were on hand for the signing ceremony.

The development programme foresees the extension of a little-used trans-Ukrainian oil pipeline, to run from the Ukrainian Black Sea port Odesa, to the Polish Baltic port Gdansk.

An initial step in the development programme would be a Granherne evaluation of the state of Ukraine's pipeline system, and the investment necessary to bring it up to an international standard, Yushchenko said at a post-signing press conference.

An agreement detailing the scale of later investment and specific development planning to complete the pipeline is likely at a Polish-Ukrainian energy summit later this year, Kaczyski said.

The partially-built pipeline, designed to transport Caspian Sea crude expected to come on line in the coming decade to Poland and its neighbours, would if completed break current tight Russian control of Central Asian oil exports, as Central Asian crude oil currently must use Russian pipelines to reach Western markets.

The new link, called the Odesa-Brody-Plotsk-Gdansk pipeline, would bypass the Russian route by allowing Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan to transport oil to market across the Black Sea, via the Georgian port Poti by tanker to Ukraine's Yuzhny oil terminal, and onward via a pipeline across Ukraine and Poland to consumers.

The Ukrainian section of the line and the Yuzhny port terminal were completed in 2004. Currently the terminal is unused and only sections of the Ukrainian line is used, to augment pipelines shipping Russian oil, as Caspian product has not been forthcoming.

A multinational consortium including Polish Lithuanian, Georgian, and Azerbaijani shareholders has been working on the Polish section of the line since 2007, with little visible progress.

Granherne Ltd. was founded in London in 1984, and merged with Houston-headquartered MW Kellog in 1996. The firm was later controlled by US Halliburton and currently is a subsidiary of Houston-headquartered KBR Inc.

A Black Sea pipeline allowing the former Soviet republics Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia to import oil and transport it onwards without Kremlin interference, has been talked by regional energy planners since the early 1990s.

Progress on the idea has been extremely slow, in part because of estimated $2 billion price tag on the project, and because of questions as to whether oil shipped by pipeline then tanker and then pipeline again could compete with Russian oil transported to market through pipelines without trans-shipment.

Consumer prices surge in March

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's consumer prices, led by food products, skyrocketed in March, pushing overall inflation over the past three months to a level exceeding the government's forecast for the entire year.

The consumer prices rose 3.8% on the month in March, the highest figure so far this year, pushing the cumulative inflation to 9.7% in January through March, the State Statistics Committee reported, April 7.

The figures are much worse than has been earlier expected, representing a major setback for the government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who has been insisting inflation will not exceed 9.6% in 2008.

Measured on an annual basis, inflation rose to a shocking 26.2% in March compared with March 2007, which puts a mounting pressure on the National Bank of Ukraine to intervene by hiking its key interest rates.

The developments may renew calls within the government for the NBU to drastically change its foreign exchange policy towards letting the hryvnia, the local currency, appreciate against the U.S. dollar.

President Viktor Yushchenko met Tymoshenko on April 7 following the release of the data, and urged the government to immediately take measures that would alleviate the inflationary pressure within the next two or three months.

"We have to get back to the issue of anti-inflationary measures and to take the most decisive steps to balance out the situation," Yushchenko told Tymoshenko, according to his press service.

Yushchenko specifically warned Tymoshenko against resorting to administrative price controls in some sectors, such as agriculture, suggesting the measures should be aimed at stimulating domestic farmers.

"The key issue that we must take care of is to stimulate the national producer," Yushchenko said. "This is the main anti-inflationary measure when we talk about the food market."

Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose 5.6% on the month in March and were higher by 40.7% compared with March 2007, according to the committee.

Meanwhile, the anti-inflationary measure may lead to tensions between Yushchenko, a liberal economist, and Tymoshenko, who has been known of resorting to administrative price controls in the past.

Anatoliy Maksiuta, the first deputy economy minister, said April 7 the administrative restriction of price hikes by the government is one of options on the table, along with increasing supply of goods and products.

The government was implementing some anti-inflationary measures since January, but two weeks ago Tymoshenko had admitted the measures had "failed to produce impressive results."

Tymoshenko blamed the NBU for "very controversial" monetary policy, and said that inflation figures in March would show whether stronger measures were needed.

Tymoshenko's comments underscored her unease with the NBU's policy of pegging the hryvnia to the U.S. dollar. She, and well as Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, have been pushing for the appreciation of the hryvnia in a move to slow down inflation.

Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages in March climbed 5.6% on the month, while housing costs rose 0.9%, transportation services by 3.9% and healthcare by 1.6%, according to the committee.

Over the past 12 months, food prices rose 40.7%, followed by transportation costs 23.2%, the healthcare (17.3%) and housing (9.2%), according to the committee.

Black Sea Economic group signs energy cooperation deal with EU

(Ukrainian Journal)—Representatives of the states belonging to the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) have signed a joint declaration on cooperation with the European Union in the energy sector.

The declaration was signed during a meeting of representatives of energy ministries of the BSEC Organization in Kyiv on April 9, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

According to the document, the sides agreed to study the start of coordination of the process on the adjustment of laws in the energy sphere between states belonging to the BSEC Organization and the European Union and the drawing up of a joint BSEC-EU action plan in the energy sector.

Naftogaz Ukrayiny seeks further delay

(Ukrainian Journal)—Naftogaz Ukrayiny, the state-owned natural gas company, has asked the holders of its eurobonds worth $500 million and notes worth $200 million to accept a delay in the terms for submitting an audited financial report for 2006 from March 31, 2008 to May 31, 2008, according to a report of Standard Bank London Holdings Plc. on the Luxemburg Stock Exchange.

According to the bank, Naftogaz Ukrayiny said its request was due to the overrun in talks with Russia on natural gas supplies in 2008, and continuing political and legal actions that delay the publication of the report.

WTO Triumph

Parliamentarians take an uncharacteristically united stance on ratifying WTO membership

By Oksana Bondarchuk, *Business Ukraine*

Despite the hand-wringing, Ukraine's Parliament put on a hitherto unseen display of unity on the country's entrance to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) when the matter was put to vote April 10. The Protocol of Accession was duly ratified with four of the five parliamentary factions voting in favour. This last step not only gave a guarantee for Ukraine's full participation in the world economy, but also demonstrated that there are moments in which the different sides of the political divide can recognise a common good.

The April 10 ratification of the Protocol of Accession formally means that Ukraine has joined the WTO. "Today Ukraine has gone through all of the formal procedures which have to be undertaken for the legal status of Ukraine's membership in the WTO," confirmed President Viktor Yushchenko on the day of event. This step finished Ukraine's marathon to join the trade organisation's 151 other members. Membership will now come into effect 30 days after the ratification.

The voting for the ratification of the Protocol is one of the best demonstrations of single-mindedness in the whole history of Ukraine's Parliament. Some 411 deputies of the 449 who were registered to vote supported the document. "I wish the Ukrainian parliament had such unity in all other questions which form national interests as well," said the President. The Communist Party was the only faction which abstained.

Parliament approved five of the seven documents that are necessary to adapt Ukrainian legislation to WTO requirements. Two other bills are waiting for conclusions from profile committees and are expected to be approved without difficulty soon. Parliamentary Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk also underlined what he termed as "the incredible effectiveness" of the deputies' work on issues connected with the country's WTO membership.

Experts explain that during the past few years every government has worked actively in the direction of the trade organisation. "Governments have changed but negotiations have not stopped since 2004. Both the Yanukovych and Tymoshenko governments worked actively in this field. This question united all parliament forces," says Vitaliy Vavryshchuk, an analyst at the investment bank Dragon Capital. "I think that the key factor which helped to get all this support was that every faction has businessmen who see a lot of advantages for them from this step," he adds.

It took 14 years for Ukraine to get a positive decision from the working party that adopted the package including market access schedules for goods and services along with a draft General Council decision and a draft Protocol of Accession on Jan. 25. The WTO, the only international organisation dealing with the global rules of trade between nations, first attracted Ukraine's attention back in November 1993 when the country submitted an application to join. A month later a working party was established in the Ukrainian parliament.

Since then the state has held many negotiations and made numerous legislative changes in order to meet the standards of the organisation, though the real work was done during recent years. After receiving a positive resolution from the working group the accession package was put forward to the General Council for consideration and approved at the meeting on Feb. 5. Ukraine had until July 4 to ratify the Protocol but did so much earlier than expected.

Nevertheless, accession is not the end of the work involved because joining the WTO will require stable work from the parliament and similar unity in the future as the WTO develops and changes rules, requiring similar moves from its members. Consequently, the process of legislative changes will from now on be a permanent feature of Ukrainian political life. "These seven bills discussed in Parliament are just a part of the standard acts which must be approved and discussed in accordance with joining the WTO," says Vavryshchuk at Dragon Capital.

WTO membership is widely thought to be worth all the effort because it guarantees Ukraine access to the markets of all other WTO members and creates a degree of certainty and stability in the openness of the Ukrainian market that will help attract new traders and investment.

"Accession to the WTO means the reform of the country's external trade regime and is focused on long-term and middle-term perspectives. For example, the law on alterations to customs tariffs will come into force not earlier than January, 2009. Our producers will work under the terms they have now until end of this year," adds Vavryshchuk.

Ukraine and Romania to hold further consultations

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine and Romania plan to hold further consultations on the completion of the construction of Kryvy Rih Oxidized Ore Mill (KGOKOR) in Dolysnke in Kirovohrad region, according to a report of the State Property Fund of Ukraine after a meeting of the Ukrainian and Romanian delegations held on April 7 and April 8 in Bucharest.

"After the talks between Ukraine and Romania on settling issues of the construction of KGOKOR, the sides decided to hold further consultations on settling relations between the sides on KGOKOR, including at the level of experts, and hold a meeting of Ukrainian and Romanian delegations no later than the first ten days of June 2008, in Kyiv," reads the report, issued on April 14.

EU bans Ukraine Cargo Airways

(Thomson Financial)—The European Commission says it is imposing a ban on all operations of an additional Ukrainian airline, Ukraine Cargo Airways, as well as on all operations of the Congolese carrier Hewa Bora Airways amid concerns over the groups' safety standards.

Ukraine Cargo Airways is the third Ukrainian airline added to the list of companies banned from operating in the European Union after Volare and Ukrainian Mediterranean Airlines.

The updated blacklist which was published on April 11 bans all carriers from Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In addition, nine individual carriers' operations are fully banned in the European Union.

UIA urges lifting of restrictions

(Ukrainian Journal)—Kyiv-based Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) supports the lifting of restrictions on the CIS aviation market, the Yevheniya Satskaya, UIA's press secretary, has told Interfax-Ukraine.

She said that the lifting of restrictions on air communications between Ukraine and Georgia is evidence of this step.

"Cooperation between Ukraine and Georgia is a example of open sky [policies], as the restrictions between our countries on the number of carriers operating on the market... have been lifted. You know that from the start of summer navigation, AeroSvit started flying to Georgia, Dniproavia also announced that it would fly between Dnipropetrovsk and Tbilisi. No one suffered, each airline has passengers. This is a good example, which should be an example for the CIS countries and a stimulus for this route," she said.

Conditions ripe for hryvnia strengthening

(Ukrainian Journal)—There are economic preconditions for strengthening the hryvnia's exchange rate to the dollar, although this is impeded by the large amount of dollars in the country's economic turnover and citizens' deposits, according to the head of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), Volodymyr Stelmakh.

"We depend on energy and other goods of investment character, where the strengthening of the exchange rate is needed, and it is economically proved... When only the national currency is in economic turnover will serious strengthening be seen," he said, speaking at parliament.

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Klitschko shifts focus to political arena

By Vincent M. Mallozzi,
New York Times, April 15, 2008

Sports

The former heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko is a contender for another title — mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine.

Klitschko, 36, retired in November 2005, while he was the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion. He was 35-2 with 34 knockouts, and he left behind a $4.2 million purse that he would have collected had he defended his title against Hasim Rahman. A few days before that fight, he had an operation on his right knee, which had been badly injured while sparring, and decided to retire.

In March 2006, Klitschko entered the political ring in Kyiv by campaigning for mayor on an anticorruption platform. That May, he finished second to Leonid Chernovetsky in a multicandidate race, winning about 25 percent of the vote.

As he campaigns again for the post in an election scheduled for May 25, Klitschko is gaining more support, according to a recent poll by an analytical research center in Kyiv, Institut Goroda. A total of 29.8 percent of those polled said they would vote for him, while 14.6 percent said they would choose Chernovetsky. Another 9 percent said they would vote for Olexander Omelchenko, who held the post for 10 years before the 2006 election.

"There is too much political corruption in Kyiv, which is hurting this city in terms of development," Klitschko said recently by telephone from the city, where he lives with his wife and three children. He works as a city councilman in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine with a population of about 3 million. "We need to bring Kyiv up to proper European and American standards. But legitimate businessmen cannot invest money here, because the only deals made with this government are made under the table with their family and friends."

Klitschko visited New York on Monday and will be in Washington on Tuesday to meet with politicians and potential investors for Kyiv. He planned to return home Wednesday.

"I'm still young, and I have a lot of energy to fulfill my vision for a better Kyiv," Klitschko said in the telephone interview. "We are a young democracy in need of many strategies for development, including the development of buildings and roads, and we need to make sure that the people of Kyiv can afford to pay for medicine, food, water, gas and other necessities."

The 6-foot-7 Klitschko, a son of a Soviet Air Force colonel, was born in Belovodsk, Kyrgyzstan, which was part of the Soviet Union at the time. He qualified for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, but failed a drug test before the Games and was removed from the Ukrainian team.

His younger brother, Wladimir, replaced him on the team and won the gold medal in the superheavyweight division. Wladimir holds the heavyweight titles for the International Boxing Federation, the World Boxing Organization and International Boxing Organization.

Having lived for long stretches in Germany and Los Angeles, where his children were born, Klitschko says he has a vision for Kyiv.

"I've been to many parts of the world, and I know by comparison that there's a better way of life in the United States and in Europe than there is here," he said. "The traffic in Kyiv is terrible because we don't have real highways for cars to travel. My home is about a mile away from my office, and sometimes it takes me an hour to get to work. There's traffic in New York and Los Angeles, but nothing as incredible as this."

Roy Jones Jr., a former heavyweight champion who has held numerous light-heavyweight titles, said he viewed Klitschko's run for mayor as "a beautiful idea."

"If a movie star can be the governor of California," Jones said, referring to the current governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, "why can't a boxer be the mayor of Kyiv?"

Jones said Klitschko's boxing experience was good preparation for political sparring. "Vitali is a very smart guy," he said. "And I'm sure he is studying his opponents, as well as the problems of the people he wants to represent, which will make him as successful in politics as he is in the ring."

Klitschko received a Ph.D. in philosophy in sports science from the Kyiv University, an accomplishment that helped earn him the nickname Dr. Iron Fist. He announced last year that he would return to the heavyweight division in the future, possibly in a fight against Samuel Peter for his W.B.C. title. Although injuries have set him back, he said, he is still leaning toward a return.

"I train for two hours every morning before I go to work," he said. "I'm in great fighting shape right now."

For now, the only opponents he has in mind are those who will be running against him next month.

"Every goal I have ever set for myself in life, I have made come true," Klitschko said. "My biggest goal right now is to help create a modern, democratic Ukraine. To me, there is no fight more important than that."

Wladimir Klitschko to fight Thompson

Double world heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko will defend his WBO belt against American Tony Thompson on July 12 in Hamburg, Germany, reported Agence France Presse, April 8.

Thompson, 36, has 31 victories, 19 knock-outs and one defeat to make him the number-one WBO heavyweight challenger.

He will meet the 32-year-old champion at Hamburg's Color Line Arena this summer.

Klitschko still needs clearance for the Thompson fight from the IBF board in New Jersey because their official challenger is Russian Alexander Povetkin, who will face the Ukrainian at the end of the year or early 2009.

Klitschko unified the WBO and IBF titles when he beat Russian fighter Sultan Ibragimov last February in Madison Square Garden, New York.

Povetkin, 28, is Klitschko's official IBF challenger and the 2004 Olympic heavyweight champion is unbeaten since turning pro with 15 victories and 11 knock-outs.

Klitschko has 50 professional wins with 44 knock-outs and three defeats.

Ukraine takes seven swimming medals

(UkrNews)—Ukraine took seven medals at the World Short Course Championships in Manchester, Eng., April 10 -13. Among these were two golds, three silvers and two bronze.

Ihor Borysik, blitzed away to a championship record of 57.74 In the Men's 50-metre-breastroke at to finish ahead of South Africa's Cameron Van Der Burgh and fellow countryman, Oleh Lisogor. He also took a silver in the 200-metre event.

Lisogor won gold in the 100-metre breastroke in addition to his bronze.

Kateryna Zubkova, meanwhile came in second In the Women's 100-metre backstroke to Zimbabwe's Elizabeth Simmonds, setting a European-record time of 57.15 in the process. She also took a bronze in the 50-metre.

Serhiy Breus won the bronze in the 50-metre butterfly.

Yushchenko says Ukraine on track with preparations for Euro 2012

Ukraine's preparations to co-host the 2012 European Championship are on track according to President Viktor Yushchenko, reports The Canadian Press.

"I want to guarantee that Ukraine is working in accordance with scheduling and everything will be finished on time", Yushchenko said April 14.

Yushchenko said stadiums in the host cities of Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk will open later this year, while renovation works are under way at the Olympic stadium in Kyiv — which will host the 2012 tournament final.

UEFA president Michel Platini has criticized Ukraine and co-host Poland for dragging their feet in preparations for the tournament, and warned both countries in February to avoid "critical slippage" in infrastructure projects.

Yushchenko also said that more than 100 upscale hotels are currently under construction to host fans.

Yushchenko's comments came during a visit in Warsaw where he and Polish counterpart Lech Kaczynski signed a declaration on boosting the two countries' cooperation in preparing for the tournament.

The neighbouring countries won the co-hosting bid a year ago, but have struggled to upgrade crumbling roads and stadiums, a legacy of the communist era.

PHOTOS — SEINOSUKE UCHIGASAKI

***Above:** Oleksandr Materukhin scores on a penalty shot in the game against Lithuania. **Below:** Ukrainians crowd the Croatian net.*

Ukraine in position for return to hockey worlds

(UkrNews/IIHF)—Ukraine's national ice hockey team swept it's first three games at the IIHF World Championship Division I Group B tournament in Japan and was in a good position to return to the premier division, as this issue of Ukrainian News went to press, April 17.

After many years with the elite nations Ukraine was relegated to Division 1 during the World Championship in Russia in 2007.

The top teams in both the Group A and Group B Divisions will return to the 16-nation elite league.

As of April 17, Ukraine had two more games scheduled —against host Japan on April 18 and versus Hungary on April 19.

April 13 — Ukraine 4: Croatia 0

Ukraine opened the tournament with a 4-0 sweep against Croatia.

The Ukrainians went into the game as the favourites since Croatia was promoted from Division II last year. Ukraine put a lot of pressure on Croatia's goalkeeper Vanja Belic in the beginning with 22-7 shots in the first period.

At 7:34, the first goal was missed by hitting the crossbar on an empty net. Just one minute later, Yuriy Dyachenko made it 1-0 for Ukraine.

Croatia was dominated during the whole game but had some chances with counter-attacks. The resistance was breaking when Dmytro Tsyrul scored in the middle period. Vadym Shakhraychuk and Oleksandr Karaulshchuk extended the score to 4-0 within 21 seconds in the third period.

April 14 — Ukraine 3: Estonia 1

Gold favourite Ukraine remained undefeated on Day 2. The Ukrainians dominated Estonia but sealed their 3-1 win only in the last minute.

Netminder Aleksei Terentjev was Estonia's best player especially when the Ukrainians were outshooting their opponenst 19-6 in the first period.

But Andrei Makrov took the lead for the Estonians at 22:15 on a pwer play when Ukraine was caught with too many players on the ice. Dmytro Tsyrul equalised six minutes later.

The Ukrainians couldn't follow their game plan because of three penalties in six, but killed them off effectively, with Yuriy Navarenko scoringa shorthanded goal at 37:39.

Estonia had a chance to come back with two more power plays, but couldn't capitalise on their chances. An empty-netter at 59:27 finally sealed the win for Ukraine.

April 16 — Ukraine 6: Lithuania 1

Ukraine sealed another three points with a win against Lithuania.

Despite being outshot 10-13, the Ukrainians won the first period 4-0.

Vadym Shakhraychuk opened the scoring after just 47 seconds. As the Lithuanians failed to capitalize on a power play, Kostiantyn Kasianchuk increased the lead at 8:15.

Andriy Sryubko connected on the first Ukrainian power play after only 18 seconds, at 10:43.

Oleksandr Materukhin's penalty shot goal at 16:01 was too much for the frustrated Lithuanians._

The Ukrainians had things in control for the rest of the game. Two more goals for the winners came courtesy of Sergii Klymentiev and Roman Salnikov.

Tadas Kumeliauskas scored the only goal for Lithuania._

Ukraine's World Championship veteran goalie Igor Karpenko had 28 saves, while Lithuania netminder Arturas Kuzmicius had 26 saves on 32 shots

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ONE UNIVERSITY. MANY FUTURES

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In Loving Memory of our Dear Mother and Dad

Mother in the center, immigrated to Canada in 1905 with the group.

They met, married, had six children and bought a homestead in the Leduc area. They worked very, very hard cleaning the land to plant crops and gardens — cutting down trees to build a log house and other buildings needed on the farm, raising livestock. Their six children were conceived in love, but that wasn't to last. Our mother passed away at the age of 32. The youngest of the six children was only 17 days old. Our Dad suffered greatly — six little children left motherless. So young to die — her beauty was beyond no other. For Dad, life to go on, for himself and for his six children that he loved. It wasn't easy.

Our Dad was of a genius mind. He could have been up there with the greatest inventors had he been educated, but he only had three days of schooling before coming to Canada and no schooling in Canada at all. He was gifted in being very good in mathematics, but he could not read or write — yet from the top of this head he could make things, build buildings — he had such great insight.

He made Tabernacles for the statues of the Holy Family in our home and painted them in silver and gold. We prayed to the Holy Family, to us they were real. The Elders at our church asked Dad to make clip-on candleholders on a round table. Making things came easy to him.

He taught himself to play the violin. Golden Slippers and Red Wing were popular songs. He made a drum out of calf skin with a handle and little metal jingles all around the drum to shake and a wooden drum beater. His good workmanship was unbelievable. At house parties, when Dad would play the violin and Uncle Mike played the drum, people would dance. They even had two little kiddies dance together for entertainment — my brother John and me. I remember being shy, but I felt secure turning round and round with my little (big) brother, two years older than me.

Dad made mattresses for people.

Mary (Sowiak) Stepanko, 1892 - Dec.17, 1923. Immigrated to Canada in 1905 at age 14.

William Stepanko, Jan. 1891 - Oct. 3 1962. Immigrated to Canada with parents and siblings in 1903 at age 13.

He built a big contraption in our not-so-big house to make the mattresses on. They were made of wool. It's amazing how he knew all that. The needle he used was a foot long. The mattresses looked like the store bought ones.

He built something to separate the bad seeds from the good seeds before planting and built lift on a pulley in the basement to carry firewood upstairs to the kitchen. He was also a great story teller.

He built his parents' big white house on their farm when he was still a teenager. Dad also built a sawmill from the top of his head and sawed lumber for other people and for himself. He built a nine-room brick house on his farm. For an uneducated man, he suffered a lot, but also contributed a lot to help build this great country of ours.

Forever loved, forever missed.
Rest in Peace dear Mother & Dad
Rose, Sophie & John

Remembering Mother — What was Heard and What was Told

Not much is known about our mother, for she died so young. She came to Canada a young girl of 14 years of age with Sisters, Nuns and other young girls her age.

What is known… she worked in a Ritzie Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta. It's not known when or how our mother and father met, but it had to have been in Edmonton. Dad worked in a coal mine and he also worked on the railroad.

They met, fell in love, married and lived in a house in Edmonton where my sisters, Anne and Sophie were born. They then bought a homestead in the Leduc area and along came Kaye, Steve, John and me, Rose.

What is known… she was a wonderful, beautiful person. She loved her children and was a good wife. I am sure, at time, she was lonely for her mother and dad, leaving them at such a young age, but she found love with our dad and all of us (her children) in Canada.

She used to dress Anne in beautiful eyelet dresses and braid her hair in pigtails when she went to school and was always waiting at the gate by the Town Line (main road) for her after school. The other children (the ones who were born at the time) remained at home, as they were too young to attend school.

She was a great mother, a very good cook and cleaner. She was also a good singer, singing to the brides when they were married. Mother and dad were a great match.

When mother passed away, all six of us were taken to our grandmothers until she took sick. Life was hard for pioneers building a home and a country.

Our neighbours at the time were Mr. and Mrs. August Wetter. Mrs. Wetter told grandmother she would take the baby (me) to help her out. They gave me unconditional love and wanted me for their own.

I am sure our mother is thanking Mr. and Mrs. Wetter for looking after me for up to nine months until I was taken away. It broke their hearts. They never forgot me and I never forgot them and the love they gave me as though I was their own.

Love Forever, Rose

Mr. & Mrs. August Wetter on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Jan. 1, 1968 with me. Married 60 years.

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Greetings to our Ukrainian community on celebrating the Resurrection of Christ!

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